Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Foreign Ministry Confirms Talks' Suspension

JN2802170994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Arab delegations to the peace talks in Washington today decided to suspend [qat'] bilateral talks with Israel to protest the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. A spokesman for the Syrian Foreign Ministry confirmed statements by U.S. officials that this step does not mean an end to the whole peace process, which began two years ago. The spokesman added: No progress has been achieved in the talks that resumed in Washington on 24 January after a four-month hiatus. The spokesman said that Israel is responsible for this.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Israeli intransigence during the talks, and its failure to make any positive initiatives, encouraged Israeli extremists to perpetrate the Hebron massacre. The spokesman said: Israel has made no positive initiatives in response to the constructive and flexible stands adopted by Syria in the Geneva summit held between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In Amman, Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, announced that Jordan today was stopping bilateral talks with Israel in Washington to protest the massacre of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. REUTER cited al-Hasan as saying that the heads of the Arab delegations participating in the peace talks in Washington held intensive contacts and decided to stop the ongoing talks to protest the criminal massacre.

Chief Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf today said: It is not logical or suitable to pursue the talks in Washington following the massacre perpetrated by the settlers in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. Al-'Allaf added in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo: Through our suspension of bilateral talks, we want to express our solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people following this vicious aggression.

The heads of the Arab delegations charged al-'Allaf with the job of holding contacts with the U.S. Department of State to inform it of the stands of the Arab delegations involved in the talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Head Asks Libya To 'Reconsider' Withdrawal

NC2802163794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has held an urgent telephone conversation with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in which he called on the Libyan leader to reconsider Libya's decision to withdraw from the Arab League and not to present the decision to the Basic People's Congresses until a meeting is arranged between Libyan officials and the Arab League chief.

Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of Libya's People's General Committee for Unity, arrived in Cairo yesterday and told Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that the Secretariat of the People's General Committee for Unity (Ministry of Unity) is about to present a draft resolution to the Basic People's Congresses, calling for Libya's withdrawal from the Arab League on the grounds that the League failed to provide any service to the Arab people.[001a] [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1323 GMT on 28 February, in a Tripoli-datelined item, adds: "Counselor Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to the secretary general of the Arab League, today said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has not received a message from Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan Unity Committee, containing Libya's request to withdraw from the Arab League. Hamid added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has not sent any message dealing with this topic to Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges UN To Dispatch Troops for Protection

LD0103012694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Statement by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to unidentified correspondents, followed by questions and answers, in Algiers on 28 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] The brother president, Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], was received this afternoon by His Excellency Algerian President Liamine Zeroual at the palace of the republic. The meeting was attended on the Algerian side by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri; Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, secretary of state for Maghreb affairs; Mr. Hedi Messaoudi, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry. It was attended on the Palestinian side by brothers Nabil Sha'th, Nasr Yusuf, and Hakam Bal'awi, members of the Fatah Central Committee; and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers.

After his meeting with His Excellency Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, the brother President Abu Ammar made the following statement to reporters:

['Arafat] I put the president in the picture about the great conspiracy that took place in the form of the hideous massacre of our worshippers who were performing the dawn prayers inside the holy al-Ibrahim mosque and also about the collusion and the conspiracy in which elements of the Israeli Army and armed settlers were involved.

This reminds us exactly of what happened between the French Secret Army Organization and the Algerian settlers, as if history were repeating itself in both Algeria

and in Palestine. I asked the president for Algeria's support in the Security Council and in international circles in order to confront this hideous conspiracy, which is an attempt to obstruct the peace process and the Israeli withdrawal from our land and our homes.

It is obvious that this conspiracy had many objectives. It aimed at undermining the safety of the Palestinian national. Hence, our insistence at the Security Council on rapid international protection for the Palestinian people, for our children, our women, and our Islamic and Christian holy places. I would like to remind everyone that this is the second massacre inside our holy places. Let me remind you of the massacre which occurred inside al-Aqsa mosque in holy Jerusalem some time ago, and now this massacre in al-Ibrahim mosque in Hebron, in addition to other Islamic and Christian holy places.

Therefore we asked at the Security Council—we insist on ih—for an international commission to investigate the crime and for the dispatch of international troops to protect our people from these conspiracies in which elements and units of the Israeli Army are involved with armed settlers. This has now become of paramount importance.

I also put the president in the picture about the atmosphere which is ablaze inside our occupied land. There is a sweeping revolution and there are continuous clashes between us and the Israeli Army and also between us and Israeli settlers. It is noticeable, as is clear on all TV networks, that the patrols walking the streets are from the Israeli Army and Israeli settlers. On this very point, I would like to make clear that the Israeli cabinet meeting produced only empty words, and it would be appropriate to quote the saying, what a great to-do with precious little to show for it. It was nothing more than that.

Therefore, I call on the world community, the Russian and U.S. peace conference co-sponsors, the European Union and all of the European states, the nonaligned states, the Islamic states, and the Arab countries to assume their responsibility to protect the Palestinian people and to force the Israeli Government to withdraw immediately from our Palestinian territories, starting with Gaza and Jericho and followed by the remainder of our occupied territories so that we can effectively establish our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. God willing, this will happen soon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what is the fate of peace after this massacre?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly it should be clear, and I am addressing this talk to the whole world and the Russian and U.S. peace conference co-sponsors, that peace is blowing in the wind. It is clear that the Israeli side has no intention to be committed to what they have signed, and there is an attempt to evade the deadlines and the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

[Correspondent] What are the decisions made yesterday after the meeting... ['Arafat, interrupting] In fact, we still are [pauses]... I have come only to brief the president and go back to continue the meeting today because the matter is serious and we are discussing all of its aspects.

[Correspondent] What is your stance, especially after the withdrawal of some countries from the peace talks, Syria and Lebanon, for example?

[Unidentified person to 'Arafat] Syria and Lebanon announced the withdrawal of their delegations from Washington today.

['Arafat] It is the same story, I have withdrawn all of the delegations, not only from Washington—my brother Nabil Sha'th from Taba, and Cairo and from Paris. We are convening all of the delegations, and I am going back [not further clarified] because all of the delegations are meeting now. That is to say, yesterday and today I have been meeting my brother heads of delegations to Washington, Taba, Paris, and Cairo to look into all details of this situation in the light of the developments and this massacre which is not only a massacre: It is a massacre and a conspiracy, an organized operation exactly like you have experienced in Algeria between the Secret Army Organization and the French settlers.

Wants UN Investigation of Massacre

LD2803235494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[News conference held by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat with unidentified correspondents in Algiers on 28 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Arafat] As I said a little earlier, the talks focused on the situation in our occupied land, particularly after the abominable crime and vile conspiracy which took place inside the holy Ibrahim's mosque, as a result of which 65 martyrs fell and 256 people were injured by Israeli armed gangsters in collaboration with some units of the Israeli army. [passage omitted]

Naturally, this has left bad and negative effects on the peace process as a whole, because it proves that the Israelis do not want peace. They are now retracting everything they have signed. I would like to recall that Rabin said that there were no sacred schedules. Now, there are no sacred clauses, and tomorrow he will say there are no sacred agreements. This indicates that they are retracting what has been agreed on and what we signed in Washington last year. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you presided over an emergency meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee yesterday to look into Washington's invitation.

['Arafat] A meeting of the Palestinian leadership.

[Correspondent] Of course, the Palestinian leadership to look into Washington's invitation and the measures which the Israeli authorities have decided to take in the

aftermath of the massacre of Ibrahim's mosque. What was the final decision about these two issues?

['Arafat] I am quickly going back after my meeting with the president [Zeroual] to continue that meeting. The meeting has not ended yet. The meeting began yesterday and it will be continued today.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you are waiting for the Security's Council's final resolution?

['Arafat] One of the things we are looking forward to is a clear resolution by the Security Council condemning the crime and setting up an investigating committee. More important than that is international protection for our people. This was stated in the agreement which said "temporary international presence" [last three words spoken in English] which means temporary international presence, and we insist that that presence should take place as soon as possible so that we may rest assured that our people can be protected from those conspiracies, massacres, and trials.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the president, what do you say to the Israeli announcement on the imminent release of about 1,000 Palestinians, and the issue of disarming the Jewish settlers?

['Arafat] At the beginning they said "some".

[Correspondent] Eight hundred or 1,000?

['Arafat] No, no, no. I am talking about the armed settlers. He said he would disarm some Israeli settlers; some, some, some, i.e. a few. Have you paid attention? We say the settlers should be disarmed of all weapons, because carrying weapons should not be allowed; second, I agreed with Peres in the Cairo meeting on this number and more. Therefore, he brought nothing new.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the President, following the Ibrahim mosque massacre, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon suspended their consultations in the peace talks. What is the Palestinian stance in the light of the recent developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas?

['Arafat] I have recalled all our negotiators not only from Washington. I have invited our negotiators to yesterday's and today's meetings, why? To discuss with the brother members and heads of the delegations in Taba, Cairo, Paris, and Washington.

We enormously thank Algeria, the president, government, leadership, and people for the fraternal, continued, and constant stances which it adopts with the Palestinian fighters at the different levels. [passage omitted]

Executive Committee Meeting Resumes in Tunis

LD2802155694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The discussions of the PLO Executive Committee have resumed today at the PLO headquarters in Tunis in anticipation of a firm resolution from the UN Security Council following the massacre at the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

Within this context the PLO leaders are expecting the UN Security Council to issue a resolution that will guarantee the effective protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories before the final answer is announced to President Bill Clinton's request that the negotiations should be resumed in Washington.

Ghawshah Comments on Executive Committee Meetings

JN2802190794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1640 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Samir Ghawshah, in Tunis, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio; from the "With the Events" program—live]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PLO Executive Committee member, good evening.

[Ghawshah] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] The PLO Executive Committee is holding intensive consultations and contacts. Has the Palestinian leadership reached a firm decision on the future of Israel-Palestinian negotiations?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian leadership held a meeting yesterday to deal with various developments. The meeting was also attended by the heads of the delegations to the negotiations in Taba, Paris, and Washington. The Executive Committee studied the positions that it received. In fact, the position we received from the Israeli Government and Rabin was disappointing.

The Israeli Government's decisions were not up to the level of the incident and did not remove the obstacles to the peace process. The Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership studied this issue, and they will follow up these various developments tonight.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah: Will the Palestinian side respond to the U.S. call to hold bilateral meetings in Washington?

[Ghawshah] This depends on what the negotiations will deal with. It also depends on whether there are new issues, and whether it is only a change in the venues of meetings and in the external appearance rather than the substance. There are many issues that must be discussed with the U.S. Administration in order to learn about the objective, level, and timing of such meetings.

The PLO is thus ready, in principle, to participate in the negotiations. However, we believe that the issue is not whether to participate in negotiations and accept the U.S. invitation. The issue is at what level such negotiations will be held and what topics will be discussed. The Palestinian leadership will also discuss this issue in tonight's meeting.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir: Your colleague, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, today said the PLO will not resume negotiations unless the settlers are disarmed. Is this an official decision by the PLO leadership?

[Ghawshah] This issue was also discussed. Several requests were proposed. We are of the view that disarming the settlers is a basic and necessary issue. The forces that maintain internal security and public order are regular forces, whether the Israeli Army troops or, when the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is completed, the Palestinian security and police forces.

Hence, we believe that keeping the settlers under arms is in violation of both the law and all agreements. This is a basic issue. We also believe that the real threats to security are in fact threats to Palestinian security. This is contrary to Prime Minister Rabin's allegations that Israel wants to guarantee its own security. Evidence has shown that the Palestinian people are the ones who need protection and security guarantees.

It is not the first time that the Palestinians have been attacked by settlers, whether in the form of stopping traffic on roads or attacking defenseless citizens in their houses and cars. We see no logical explanation for the Israeli Government's position that permits extremist organizations to carry arms. These issues should be discussed, whether with the United States or other parties before finally deciding on whether to participate in the Washington negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir: What are the PLO leadership's irreversible terms to resume the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

[Ghawshah] The PLO leadership has proven its good intentions, demonstrated great flexibility, and made many concessions. It still demands that there should be a commitment to implementing the agreement and to the dates set. The only issue in the Declaration of Principles that needs no negotiations is the dates to begin and end the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Rabin made this a negotiable issue because it is not a sacred issue. What terms and issues are we talking about?

We believe that the continuation of these policies by Rabin and his government will deprive the negotiations of their role and feasibility. The basic issue is that a real and serious change should be made in the Israeli Government's position on the peace process and on implementing the agreements. We also believe that foremost among these issues must be a clear Israeli position on the settlers and disarming them. Protection for the Palestinians must be secured and UN observers should be put in place in order to maintain Palestinian security and prevent encroachments on it, whether on the part of the settlers or through the methods used by the Israeli Army, which has killed or wounded dozens of our people's sons.

At a time when the Palestinians are prevented from expressing their feelings or burying their martyrs, we see on television pictures of settlers wandering freely with their weapons. Thus, what negotiations are we talking about?

We pose a basic question: What peace does Rabin want? Does he want peace that will guarantee security, stability, and prosperity for Israel, or does he wish to continue his policies that appease the Likud, the settlers, and others. This appeasement cannot be part of a peace that takes into account party, internal, and electoral considerations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, the last question is: Do you think that a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat could facilitate the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

[Ghawshah] We believe that the first step should be serious and practical decisions by Rabin on the massacre and the savage crime perpetrated against our people's sons in the Ibrahimi Mosque, as well as on the acts of violence carried out by the Israeli military circles, which killed and wounded dozens of our people's sons.

We believe that what will really facilitate the negotiations and any future meetings are effective measures taken by both the Israeli Government and Rabin in order to show real readiness for negotiations to achieve peace. Foremost among these measures is the disarming of the settlers and a clear announcement of commitment to implementing the agreement and its set dates.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PLO Executive Committee member, thank you very much.

[Ghawshah] You are welcome.

Says No Talks Without Guarantees

NC0103065494 Paris AFP in English 0201 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 1 (AFP)—The PLO leadership decided late Monday [28 February] not to resume talks with Israel until it gets security guarantees for Palestinians, an authoritative source here said, amid reports of "hopeful signs" from the United Nations.

Samir Ghawshah, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, emerged from the committee's second meeting here in two days to say that there would be no resumption of talks until there were guarantees of security and "international protection" for the Palestinians.

The decision casts doubt on the invitation by US President Bill Clinton to both sides to begin accelerated talks in Washington on Wednesday to speed up the peace process. Israel has accepted Clinton's initiative.

Monday's session, under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, lasted two and a half hours, but was adjourned until later Tuesday to await the outcome of a United Nations Security Council debate on the massacre, Ghawshah said.

That debate, held over from Saturday amid sharp disagreement between the PLO and the United States, was due to have begun around 0100 GMT Tuesday (8:00 p.m. Monday in New York).

Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said in New York that negotiations prior to the debate were "going well."

The current Security Council chairman, Roble Olhaye of Djibouti, said the delegations had "accomplished a lot" and that there were "hopeful signs for a resolution."

The PLO's representative at the United Nations, Nasir al-Qidwah, said he might well address the council, and that the Americans would not stand in his way, as they often did.

Talks in the Council snagged Saturday on Washington's opposition to PLO demands that the UN send an international peacekeeping force to the occupied territories, a move rejected by Israel.

PLO leaders have also slammed as "inadequate" Israeli pledges to disarm the most extreme of the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, in the wake of Friday's massacre of 52 Muslim worshippers in the West Bank town of Hebron.

They want all settlers disarmed, an unreasonable demand in the eyes of the Israelis, who point to continuing attacks on settlers by Muslim extremists.

Israeli premier Yitzhaq Rabin announced in Jerusalem on Monday that Israel would accept the deployment of an international civilian force in the occupied territories.

"We would accept the stationing of an international presence in Gaza and Jericho, but it should not consist of military forces and should comply with the Oslo Declaration of Principles" on Palestinian self-rule signed last September, Rabin told representatives of American Jewish organisations.

But another PLO executive committee member 'Ali Ishaq told AFP after Monday's session that Rabin's offer was "derisory".

The PLO's mainstream Fatah movement announced Monday that it had ended the ceasefire it declared to celebrate the historic September 13 accord with Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Shortly afterwards its Fatah Falcons guerrillas claimed responsibility for the murder of an 80-year-old Israeli who was hacked to death with an axe at Kfar Saba north of Tel Aviv.

Fatah supporters paraded in the Dayr Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip on Monday evening to claim the murder as an act of revenge.

Ghawshah also said the PLO leadership had resolved to increase its diplomatic activity to win worldwide backing for its demands, by making representations to the Arab nations, the non-aligned movement, the Russians, the Americans and the Europeans.

Three Arab delegations pulled out of talks with Israel in Washington on Sunday in protest at the massacre, after PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat criticised the Israeli army for failing to stop US-born doctor Barukh Goldstein emptying three and a half clips from his Galil automatic rifle into the worshippers.

And the Arab League council in Cairo on Sunday framed an uncompromising resolution blaming Israel for the attack.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Prerequisites' for Resuming Talks

LD2802203694 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 94

["Exclusive" statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, "a while ago"; place not given]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership will be meeting this evening in order to examine a number of topics revolving around the situation in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre.

At the forefront of these topics is the issue of sending envoys to Washington to examine a number of matters, particularly the need to guarantee international protection for the Palestinian people, as well as the need to take effective measures to disarm the settlers, to remove a number of settlements which have been hotbeds of tension, and criminal activities against the Palestinian people. These are necessary prerequisites before the resumption of the peace process, which came into being in order to provide security for the Palestinian people and the rest of the region's peoples. However, such security has been violated by armed gangs of settlers.

Moreover, the measures which were taken yesterday by the Israeli Government do not constitute a practical step but merely an exercise to cover up the crime. For this reason, curbing the activities of settlers and the building of settlements in general, and the provision of international protection are fundamental requirements for the negotiations to take their natural course.

Conversely, we have also been trying to table these issues before the UN Security Council; we are hoping that a

resolution, which would guarantee international protection and the disarmament of settlers, will be adopted in an effort by the international community to help us to continue the peace process to its final conclusion.

Qaddumi Discusses Hebron, 'Decisive Measures'

NC0103071994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] Welcome.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can you give us an idea about the Palestinian action following the dreadful massacre committed against the sons of the Palestinian people?

[Qaddumi] The horrendous crime committed by the Israelis in collusion with the army is a sign of disgrace in the history of these racist powers. We have taken measures to provide the necessary protection to our people by referring the issue to the UN Security Council, the highest international authority, to take the required steps to send international troops. We are pressing in the direction of the United States, because it can put pressure on Israel to disarm those settlers who tamper with peace and security and effect an early withdrawal. There are settlements that Rabin calls political settlements. Why don't they dismantle these settlements? Why are there no deterrent measures against the perpetrators?

Regrettably, the first responsibility falls on Rabin and the Israeli Government, which failed to take any measures to stop such acts in the past. We drew attention to these acts repeatedly; we warned Israel and the United States, as a sponsor of the peace conference.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You demand the disarming of settlers to guarantee the safety and security of the Palestinian citizen. Do you believe that this is sufficient, particularly as the army's collusion with the settlers has been established, as you said?

[Qaddumi] It is not sufficient. But to start with, we expect a swift withdrawal, as they promised. We expected it, as stipulated, on 13 December. Unfortunately, they failed to do that. I was certain in opposing that agreement that they would not withdraw. They were stalling for time to tell the world that security is unstable and that incidents would happen when they withdrew, leaving the security task to the Palestinians. By prolonging the period, the Israelis want to justify to the world the killing and terrorism they have exercised against our people. They killed national symbols. They have committed the biggest ever crime—the major holocaust [last word in English] at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

We will struggle. Our Arab brothers and our friends are standing by us against this dreadful crime.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You pointed out that settlements must be eliminated. They have become time bombs. You demanded that they be dismantled. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that settlements will stay, that you agreed to this, and that they insist on that agreement.

[Qaddumi] First, we did not say we agree with maintaining the settlements. The political solution should be based on international legitimacy. Second, international legitimacy is represented by the UN Security Council resolutions. There is Resolution 465, which calls for eliminating the settlements. The United States approved that resolution.

Besides, the United States said the settlements constitute an obstacle to peace and Europe said they were illegal. Rabin is a liar and he prevaricates. He agreed with the army to carry out this filthy job. Had Rabin wanted peace, he would have withdrawn on 13 December. But, as Peres said, we have been talking or negotiating with ourselves in Cairo. The controversy has concerned the means to (?perpetuate) their presence. This is what they have been discussing. Why then do they arm the settlers? Isn't the Israeli army occupying our land? Yet they want to tell the world that they are not responsible for these crimes, which they plan in the dark.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There is a question that arises concerning participation in the new round of bilateral peace talks between you and Israel, is there not?

[Qaddumi] On what do we negotiate now? What does Clinton want us to tell him at these negotiations? Why does he call the negotiators? First, decisive measures must be taken if the United States is eager for security and peace and not biased toward Israel.

By these quick negotiations, it seems that the United States wants to absorb international indignation. But international indignation is overwhelming and the United States cannot absorb it. Israel will indeed encounter numerous afflictions in the future because of its terrorist behavior. It has been proven to the world, particularly the countries that supported Israel, that Israel is the cause of tension in the region. It is the hotbed of tension. So, on what do we negotiate? Let Clinton tell Rabin frankly and clearly to withdraw from the Palestinian land. We have accepted peace and the U.S. conditions. Now they want us to negotiate following this tragedy.

The United States is asking the impossible. The Palestinian nation can stand fast and sacrifice. It will not surrender, no matter how big a power supports Israel. Yes, we know we are sacrificing and that this sacrifice is essential. If there is seriousness about establishing a just

and durable peace, we support such a move. We said yes with pride to the peace conference under unjust conditions, which Baker, the architect of this settlement, knows. Why then does Clinton hesitate to take measures? We want you, the friends of Israel, if you are concerned about peace, to come forward and bridge this wide gap between us and Israel.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

[Qaddumi] We thank you very much and appreciate the role of our brothers in Egypt, who support the Palestinian people. We also appreciate the role of the Arab nation and the Arab League in this tragedy. No doubt, the united Arab stance is a basic factor and this unity has been clearly shown to the world.

Sha'th Views Hebron Incident Impact on Talks

PM2802181194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p6

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and head of Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel, by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the massacre of worshippers in al-Ibrahimi mosque "was not less serious than the Sarajevo massacre which put expressions of sadness on the lips of U.S. President Bill Clinton to the point of changing the course of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Sha'th, who is the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations with Israel on implementation of the interim autonomy agreement in Gaza and Jericho, criticized the U.S. reaction reflected in Clinton's call for the negotiations to be moved from Cairo to Washington. He asked: "After all that has happened, is the transfer of the negotiations the only reaction?"

Sha'th, who was today recalled to Tunis by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for consultation, also asked: "Was the massacre caused by the fact that the negotiations were not being held in Washington?" He said: "The causes were the collusion between the Israeli Army and the settlers, who are armed to the teeth..., the fact that the Israeli Government did not open fire on the settlers as they were killing dozens of Palestinian people..., the settlement policy, and the arming of the settlers."

On what was required of the United States, Sha'th said that "the United States, Israel, and the international community should disarm the settlers, reconsider the settlement policy, and provide international guarantees for the Palestinian people.... That is what is required and that is what the reaction should be." He pointed out that "all these guarantees could be provided through the very same Oslo agreement."

He asked: "What if the situation was reversed?... What if a Palestinian broke into a Jewish synagogue, opened fire on the worshippers, and killed 90 people and wounded 300 others?... What would have happened in the world if that took place?"

On the suspension of the Cairo negotiations, which were supposed to be resumed tomorrow, he said: "The question now is what do we negotiate about? We must first know what guarantees the world can offer us." He added: "Why summon the negotiators to Washington? In Cairo we were making progress and were about to finish our work." He continued: "What is required is not a move to Washington but work to avoid a repetition of what has happened, particularly as this massacre was not the first. There were many massacres before." Sha'th said: "The world should now immediately identify the real criminal, namely the settlement policy."

He drew attention to the fact that "the Israeli negotiators had wasted two-thirds of the negotiation time discussing protection for the settlers. What happened at al-Ibrahim mosque shows that the Palestinians are the ones who need protection." He stressed that the massacre demonstrated to the world "who is more in need of protection than the other."

On the PLO's moves and responsibilities after the al-Ibrahim mosque massacre in Hebron, he said: "The PLO's responsibility now is to protect our people in the occupied territory." He warned that if no protection guarantees are given to the Palestinians, the peace process would suffer "and the region would drown in a sea of blood as soon as any agreement is signed."

Asked if there were any conditions for the resumption of the negotiations in Cairo or Washington, he said: "Our duty now is to protect the people." He added: "Who is to guarantee us that this would not be repeated in al-Aqsa mosque where about 20,000 worshippers perform the dawn prayer every day; particularly as it has happened before when settlers, in cooperation with soldiers, stormed al-Aqsa mosque and opened fire on the worshippers, which could easily be repeated in the absence of guarantees?"

Sha'th ridiculed the Israeli Government's claims that the perpetrator of the massacre was mentally ill. He said: "The theory about a deranged butcher is an irrational and immoral way of absolving Israel of the responsibility from beginning to end."

Asked if the massacre would become an item on the agenda of the negotiations, if resumed, so that guarantees could be requested, Sha'th emphasized that "the Gaza-Jericho agreement has guarantees.... The Israelis procrastinated on the grounds that the settlers were not a problem and the claim that Hamas was the problem..., but it has now been proven that the opposite is true."

Sha'th accused the Israeli Army of collusion with the settlers in this massacre. He stressed that "this criminal act was not an isolated personal act. It was committed in

an atmosphere of collusion." He pointed out that "worshipers in al-Ibrahimi mosque pray with the guns of Israeli soldiers over their heads.... Where was that army?" He affirmed that "eight of the martyrs were killed by occupation soldiers' fire at the door of the mosque."

Fatah Official: PLO 'Must Not Accept' U.S. Compromise

JN2802152394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 33

[Text] London—Quds Press—Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that U.S. President Bill Clinton's call on the PLO and Israel to send delegations to Washington to resume the negotiations on implementing the provisions of the self-rule agreement are only aimed at containing the incident and ending its repercussions.

He added that the political leadership of the PLO must not accept a compromise stand from President Clinton's administration, noting that it must not respond to his call to go to Washington.

Al-Hasan said that the bloodbath that occurred in the Ibrahimi Mosque and the Juniyah massacre against Christian worshipers are both part of an Israeli plan to create chaos in the region on the road to establishing a new Israeli geopolitical situation.

Al-Hasan called for escalating confrontations against the Israeli enemy until the army begins to withdraw from our territories—occupied since 1967—under UN supervision. He noted that the escalation of confrontations and the shedding of the heroic martyrs' blood will only be considered a turning point if the current negotiations are immediately halted and the Declaration of Principles signed in Oslo is terminated. There can be no negotiations except those based on a comprehensive solution and an immediate Israeli withdrawal from our beloved homeland.

Al-Hasan urged the Egyptian Government to take measures, to at least immediately withdraw its Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv and to expel the Israeli ambassador from Cairo.

He called on the Palestinian political forces to meet in order to draw the bases for a national unity aimed at escalating the struggle and confrontation against the Israeli enemy.

Al-Hasan said: Fatah cadres inside and outside the occupied territories should close their ranks and return to our revolutionary and sound course.

He said that these are historic days in which the failing ones will be severely punished. He added: As of today, there will be no place for political committees. Glory to the great intifadah.

Al-Tibi on Rabin Speech, Government Measures

TA2802180994 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Studio interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Amnon Levi—live]

[Text] [Levi] Good evening to you Dr. al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser. A commission of inquiry headed by the Supreme Court's president and with the participation of an Arab judge—do you still think this is a meaningless decision, as 'Arafat termed it?

[Al-Tibi] The decision to set up a state commission of inquiry is an internal Israeli Government's decision for the investigation of the incidents. Incidentally, the letter of appointment refers to checking the facts and circumstances, but somehow it was forgotten to authorize the commission to investigate the responsible elements: Was it Barukh Goldstein only or was it a whole movement, or a settlement, or the commander of the Central Command or his superiors?

[Levi] It is clearly to be expected though that a commission chaired by the Supreme Court president will not restrict itself and will act as it finds appropriate. Let me ask you: We have just heard a very firm speech by the prime minister in the Knesset. In fact, I cannot recall a more resolute speech by him against a sector of the Jewish population. A commission of inquiry on the highest possible level was established. What else do you demand?

[Al-Tibi] I cannot recall such a horrendous massacre which was committed by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer who is a Qiryat Arba' settler. In the past, on 16 October 1993, the Palestinians—the Supreme Muslim Council in fact—in a letter to the prime minister and defense minister, warned that this person, Barukh [here al-Tibi shows a copy of the letter which clearly contained the name Barukh] engaged in provocations against Palestinians inside the Cave of the Patriarchs. A reminder to this letter was also sent, but there was no response. Talk is not of Barukh Goldstein only....

[Levi, interrupting] I assume that this very interesting letter which you mention will reach the inquiry commission when its starts its work. I assume you will pass it on. Still, despite the terrible dimensions of the massacre, let us talk of the peace process which is more important than the massacre. What conditions, if at all, will bring you back to the negotiations?

[Al-Tibi] Prior to the cabinet meeting yesterday, the PLO had relayed to the Israeli Government six points which it thinks the government should have adopted in view of this new era. After all, the massacre has changed circumstances and conditions. It was proven that Qiryat Arba' and settlement in the heart of the Palestinian population are time bombs which should be handled, since this is not the first massacre either. Qiryat Arba' is responsible for another massacre, in the Islamic college, and for daily

provocation, by the same people, not necessarily only Kakh members. The Palestinians do not protest only against Kakh—is Rabbi Levinger a Kakh member? One of the Bet El rabbis, for instance, said that their beautiful wives light candles while the men set locals alight, and this was not forgotten. Therefore, it is necessary to handle tPe principle of settlers and settlements in the heart of Palestinian population. The Israeli Government completely failed to do that.

[Levi] You are familiar with details of the negotiations than me, and you know that your demands, such as the removal of Jewish settlements from Gaza and disarming settlers, are not realistic. The impression is that you are taking political advantage of these murders. Furthermore, when Israelis were murdered recently—since the peace process began, in fact—a demand was repeatedly heard in Israel to discontinue the process. Prime Minister Rabin rose and stated each time, shortly after each murder: We will not stop the process because it would be a victory for the murderers. It seems that in your action today you are awarding the murderer.

[Al-Tibi] The murder of the pregnant woman last week, for example, was a base and despicable murder which disgusted me personally. Still, reference here is not to an ordinary murder. It was a horrendous, unprecedented massacre. New circumstances were created by this massacre. The Palestinian residents in the territories are defenseless and should be protected. The IDF failed in its task. Due to this and other facts....[pauses] The agreement of principles stipulates the need for an international presence [last two words in English]—this is the reason and the basis for the demand for international protection, on top of the IDF's failure. I heard ministers in the Israeli Government who demanded during the cabinet meeting that Jewish neighborhoods be removed from the heart of Hebron, and this is one of the necessary actions.

[Later in the broadcast, Levi cites a reaction by security elements to the letter presented by Dr. al-Tibi during his interview, saying "this letter does not at all concern Dr. Barukh Goldstein, but Barukh Marzel, one of the Kakh leaders."]

Opposition Factions Pledge Vengeance for Massacre

PM0103111594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 94 p6

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Palestinian Opposition Factions Pledge Vengeance"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—The 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo agreement have threatened to escalate military action and retaliate to the "al-Ibrahimi mosque crime in Hebron." They called on the PLO to "revoke the Gaza-Jericho and the Cairo document" signed with Israel and to request the dismantling of the settlements in the occupied territory.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] (led by George Habash), has told AL-HAYAH that "today's (yesterday's) crime was premeditated. Nobody should believe that the Israeli officials were not linked to the operation, for they want to combine the PLO leadership's political submission with military submission through massacres."

He said that yesterday's PLO call yesterday for the dismantling of the settlements "came too late and its aim was to contain the people's fury." He urged the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] (led by Nayif Hawatimah) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to overlook their differences.

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Damascus, dismissed the claim that the perpetrator of the massacre was mentally deranged. He emphasized that Hamas "pledges retaliation for the crime." He told AL-HAYAH that the massacre "will not affect the implmentation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement." He accused the Israeli forces of complicity. He said that the "operation was planned by the army and the settlers. No armed person can enter the mosque without coordination with the army and no single person can kill about 50 people and wound over 200." He added that "the only language those (Israelis) understand is the language of military action."

Hamas' information office yesterday issued a statement calling for an urgent enlarged meeting of the Islamic movements in the Arab and Islamic states "to consider ways of reacting to the Zionist massacre and of supporting the Palestinian people." The statement added: "Let the confrontations escalate and let the land erupt in flames and earthquakes under the feet of the occupation. Let (Yitzhaq) Rabin know that our people's flesh is very bitter."

Hamas later issued another statement calling on the Palestinian and Arab negotiators to withdraw from the negotiations with Israel. It added: "We call on the Tunis leadership to return to the option of resistance as the only strategic option for our people to regain their rights and avenge the blood of the martyrs."

Hawatimah said that escalation of military action and the downfall of the Oslo and Cairo agreements "would open the way for a political settlement based on withdrawal, termination of [Israeli] settlement and massacres, and fulfillment of our people's right to self-determination and independence." He called for a three-day general strike in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip."

Palestinian Popular Struggle Front Secretary General Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid has urged the Security Council to "take the necessary measures to prevent the Zionists from committing their crimes." He called on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to stop the negotiations with Israel.

The PFLP and the DFLP have issued a statement requesting international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territory and promising to "avenge" the Hebron massacre and "punish the occupation forces and the settlers." The statement called on the Palestinian president to stop the negotiations with the Hebrew state. [passage omitted]

DFLP, PFLP Command Calls For Halt to Talks

JN2802181794 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—The unified central command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has said that the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and the ensuing bloody repression is the bitter fruit of the Oslo agreement. The command stressed that this agreement must be foiled and that the political process must be rebuilt based on the resolutions of international legitimacy that deal with the Palestinian cause in order to reach a solution that secures the Palestinian Arab people's national rights to repatriation and self-determination and their right to establishing an independent state.

In a statement issued following its extraordinary session today, the command called for a halt to the current negotiations within the framework of the Oslo agreement until the Security Council resolutions that call for an end to settlement building, which they consider illegitimate, are implemented; until the Fourth Geneva Convention is applied in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem; and until protection for the Palestinian Arab people is secured.

The command demanded that the Security Council adopt clear resolutions and a suitable mechanism to implement its resolutions on settlement building.

In another development, the DFLP called on Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to directly intervene with the U.S. Administration, Russia, and Europe in order to take tangible steps in response to the bloody massacres against the Palestinian Arab people, especially the crime at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque—steps that similar to those taken in Bosnia.

In a message today, the DFLP called on Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to adopt appropriate resolutions, especially in terms of tightening the economic boycott of Israel to its maximum levels until a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached. Such a settlement should be based on the principle of full withdrawal for full peace, on providing international protection for Palestinian people under the occupation by deploying international forces under UN supervision, an on rebuilding the bases of the negotiating process on the Palestinian-Israeli track in accordance with the bases of the Arab-Israeli negotiations between Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon on one hand and Israel on the other.

'Alliance' Forces Statement Denounces 'Arafat

JN2802134794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 14

[Statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces in Jordan in Amman on 27 February]

[Text] Masses of our Palestinian people, and of the Arab and Islamic nation, the mosque martyrs and all the bereaved Palestinians curse 'Arafat and his traitorous gang, wash their hands from them, and appeal to the nation, its youth, men, women, and children to rise up to bury the treason and the traitors, and from the positions they occupy, to protect the relatives, pursue the revolution, escalate the heroic intifadah, mete double retaliation against the enemy, and terminate its crimes against our relatives and nation. The revolution is our guarantor and the struggle is the means with which to protect our people and regain our rights.

The mosque massacre and all the enemy's massacres, practises, and policies explicitly prove it is impossible to coexist with this enemy, and that our people's only option is that of the revolution and struggle to defend our existence and rights. These crimes exposed for the umpteenth time the wretchedness and futility of the settlement course, and the suspect peace calls. More than this, these crimes offer new evidence as to the catastrophic dangers posed by this course and these venomous calls not only to the security of the nation and the people but to the personal safety of the defenseless citizen who is prostrated in prayer in God's places of worship.

Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, in wake of all this, will the supporters of the negotiations and of what is falsely termed peace repent, or do they relish telling lies, forging the people's will, conceding rights, reneging the martyrs, tampering with the nation's destiny under claims of rationalism and waging a struggle on the negotiations table, and competing to submit to the enemy under the excuse that there is no other alternative? Faced with the enemy's massacres and its plan to destroy us, can there be any other option than self-defense? Has treason and the course of capitulation protected anyone, even those who are performing prayers in God's places of worship?

We call on the nation's masses and the Palestinian people to cling to the intifadah and armed struggle option, and to escalate, protect, and support the intifadah in a manner that would topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its symbols, led by traitor 'Arafat.

Glory and immortality to the righteous martyrs of the Ibrahimi Mosque, and of our intifadah and revolution. Greetings to our people's heroic intifadah. Shame on the traitors and agents. We pledge to pursue the struggle until the attainment of all the our people's objectives of liberation and repatriation. Victory for the revolution and immortality for our martyrs.

The odious bloody massacre by rancorous Zionist gangs devoid of human feeling, and thirsty for killing and destroying all that is Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim is a crime against our defenseless people and the groups of worshipers in the Ibrahimi Mosque at dawn on 25 February 1994. It testfies once again to the racist and sanguinary nature of this entity, and clearly exposes its persistence to carry out the policy of killing, persecuting, and destroying all that is Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim. At the same time, this reprehensible crime highlights the meaning, nature, and upshot of the Zionist-U.S. peace and the role of the Oslo conspiracy and the treasonous Gaza-Jericho agreement and its subsequent chapters.

Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, Yes, this is the accurate interpretation of the Zionist-U.S. peace. It consists of daily massacres, of persecution and starvation, and of destruction and eviction. While criminal Zionist Rabin and his traitor partner 'Arafat sign with one hand the documents and chapters of the conspiracy in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo, they hurl with the other hand bombs and open fire on the defenseless sons of our people in mosques, streets, and houses, emphasizing that the peace that is sought is one of surrendering to the Zionist butcher's knife, and defining the form of the peace they want with the blood of our people and sons.

While the Zionists pursue their massacres against the innocent and the defenseless, the traitors persist with their betrayal of the people, the cause, and the martyrs, and continue to submit to the enemy, thus confirming to it that its methods are successful and encouraging it to pursue the policy of destroying our people. They did not learn lessons from their agreement with Philip Habib, when they opted for their safety and left our people in Beirut as prey for the Zionist and islolationist gangs, under Sharon. Our people at the time were massacred in Sabra and Shatila. They also did not learn lessons from Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, and al-Dawayimah, and from all the massacres the Zionist gangs committed to expel our people and force them to become refugees. They never learned the lesson and led our people from one massacre to the other under the mirage of settlements, lies, treason, and the falsification of facts as they had forged the people's will. Now, they impudently claim that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron seeks to foil the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement, although Rabin and Peres have been announcing that they were negotiating with themselves and that they got all that they wanted. This means that the traitors threaten our people with more massacres if they do not condone their treason.

Paper Rejects Clinton Response to Hebron Massacre

TA2802145094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Feb 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. President Is Ignoring the Depth of Our Wound"]

[Text] The tragedy that befell us after the settlers, through the hands of the criminal doctor Barukh Goldstein, slaughtered more than 60 of our people's sons at prayer Friday morning at the Ibrahimi Mosque continues to weigh on the conscience of each of us. The criminal's timing coincided with Muslim prayer ceremonies. This increases the anger and the feeling of bitterness and pain. Despite this, President Clinton has called on us to exercise restraint. This means that we should bow our heads and accept these shameful crimes.

Despite our people's ordeal, U.S. President Clinton announced that he was inviting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to come to Washington to complete the talks on the agreements. He did this while our blood, which flowed at the Ibrahimi Mosque, was still warm. He does not realize the extent of the hatred this sort of massacre causes. We would have liked President Clinton to say that he opposes the settlers' impudence; that Israel, if it desires the establishment of a just peace, should put an end to settlement activity and the settlers' practices; and that he condemns their attempts to wreck the chance for peace. Does President Clinton wish to continue the policy of his predecessor, President Bush, in humiliating our nation and imposing hegemony over its future?

We ask President Clinton: What would have been Israel's and the United States' position if it were the Palestinians who perpetrated such gross violence against the Israelis? We recall that when some Palestinians tried to carry out an operation on the shores of Tel Aviv during President Bush's term, there was a worldwide uproar and the President adopted the unfair decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, which was followed by other measures. Our people have always been against violence aimed at innocent persons, regardless of its source. We reject the fact that President Clinton spoke in such a manner and blamed only the criminal who perpetrated this barbaric act. The massacre has deeper dimensions. In Qiryat Arba', the settlement built on the outskirts of Hebron, hatred and violence against Palestinians is fomented. What the criminal Goldstein did was no more than a translation of what those malicious people harbor in their minds. If it is not possible to evacuate them from Palestinian lands, they must at least be punished by preventing them from entering Hebron, especially the Ibrahimi Mosque, which they have defiled by their act.

We are addressing President Clinton not only because he sponsors the peace process and oversees the Palestinian-Israeli accord, but because the criminal came from the United States. He is of U.S. origin. Many of the settlers who have committed crimes against our people came from the United States. They are fanatic adherents of extremism and racism who cover their crimes with Israeli garb.

As for the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the sincere Palestinian aspiration for a just peace and a settlement based on international legitimacy, this has been met by the

United States or Israel by obvious foot-dragging and a policy based on maneuvering and on gambling on the Arabs' current situation. President Clinton must realize that it is folly to bet on this state continuing. Our nation's despair, its sense of humiliation, and the scorn with which our causes are addressed can lead to explosions that will be difficult to control. What is taking place today on the land of Palestine will put matters back at square one.

Needless to say, it will be difficult to discuss President Clinton's invitation to resume the talks in Washington on the presidential level unless the issue of the settlements and the settlers is addressed. The failure of the Israeli settlement policy on Palestinian lands has been proven. Israel must address this issue and defuse the situation before it blows up. U.S. invitations are tantamount to entertaining futile hopes, devoid of reality. All peace initiatives and efforts and peaceful invitations will be of no benefit unless they are accompanied by urgent action to end the violence and extremism practiced by the settlers against our people.

Clinton's Call for Washington Talks Criticized

JN2802171994 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1616 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: What is the meaning of Clinton's call for a resumption of the negotiations in Washington? Will Washington bring us back the blood that has been shed? Or will it, for that matter, protect us from Zionist crimes?

The United States is inviting us to Washington, contending that peace will resolve all problems. Hence, it wants the negotiators to sign an agreement there. It wants it to be said, in a familiar media stunt, that an agreement has been reached, that the United States is capable of resolving all problems, and that both sides have been granted justice. The Palestinian negotiators will have something to say on the occasion. They will say the following: We have asked for U.S. intervention, and we have obtained this intervention. We have signed the agreement and that ends everything, thus the blood shed in Hebron has not gone to waste. Much of this unconvincing talk will be heard.

Attention will then be focused on how to find new answers to justify the next massacre. This is the way things are being handled and managed. How can the Palestinians accept this thoroughly rotten and objectionable situation? How can the free Palestinians accept all this misrepresentation of facts, all this humiliation, and all this gratuitous death?

Commentary Blames Israeli Government for Attack

LD2702020994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The massacre at the Ibrahimi shrine yesterday, which was plotted by the Israeli Government against our people, should not be seen in isolation from past developments.

This massacre falls within the framework and development of the settlement policy. Most important, it took place as a result of the decision of the Israeli Government and army to give the green light to the settlers to persecute our defenseless people.

Anyone who reminds himself of past events will be able to recall ugly scenes similar to the one that took place yesterday in full view of the world. Thus, it is wrong to wonder if the Israeli Government is responsible for the terrible massacre yesterday. The Israeli Government is not only responsible for the massacre, it was involved in it, proven by the pictures that have been beamed by international media organs, pictures that remind people of despicable Nazism. These are pictures of the Israeli Army protecting the settlers who, in civilian clothes, were hitting Palestinians with sticks, kicking them, opening fire on them, and attacking their vehicles.

Thus, it is important to view the massacre as an official Israeli massacre for it was conducted on the one hand under the protection of the Israeli Army and police, which do not leave the Ibrahimi shrine unprotected [as heard]; on the other hand, it was a natural development of the policy of using the settlers as a means of terrorism and spreading fear among Palestinians as well as to intimidate them. The settlers were thereby able to do what the Israeli officials could not do publicly.

Furthermore, the martyrs who fell at the Ibrahimi shrine were not the only victims of yesterday, a black day in the holy month of Ramadan. What about those who were killed or injured in front of hospitals and those who fell during the confrontation between the Israeli Army and police and those who went out to express their outrage? The Israeli Army and police killed them deliberately and clearly in front of the cameras.

Thus, the problem of settlement should become the most important topic on the agenda of the talks as no negotiations will proceed in the right diretion without first resolving such a problem. No progress or development in negotiations will take place as long as such a problem is not resolved in a way that will prevent the Israeli Government from using the settlements to carry out more massacres for political aims.

Some people believed, however, that disarming the settlers would be enough; such a view would not resolve the core of the problem because settlements were set up as

military projects with a number of functions: to intervene by using terror and repression. Therefore, disarming them cannot be guaranteed by anyone, and we cannot be assured that yesterday's atrocity will not be repeated.

Therefore, the removal of all settlements is the most correct and the most urgent matter, particularly given the fact that negotiations will be taking place later about the future of the settlements. However, in negotiations there are usually problems and developments that will make their progress dependent on whether there is a need to continue with the negotiations themselves or not. [sentence as heard]

Nevetheless, if removing the settlements is hard to achieve, then an agreement should at least be reached on the protection of our people—by an international force sent by the United Nations to protect our people from these wanton, terrible, and racist aggressions that have been carried out by the settlers with the Rabin government's protection and participation—until talks about the future of the settlement are held in accordance with the timetable agreed upon between the PLO and the Israelis.

This could be a price that our people might accept, given the amount of killing, savagery, racism, and religious fanaticism, which is focused on the annihilation of the Palestinian people by killing them while they were praying their god.

A fanatic Israeli organization announced responsibility for the massacre shortly after it was committed. This means that the massacre was also plotted by the settlers and not the government alone. This should lead us to a very interesting question about the nature of Israel and how we should deal with the Israeli Government: Should we deal with it as a state or merely as a party, a faction, or an organization for as long as the settlers hold tens of thousands of weapons which can be used at any time for public and premeditated killing, by an individual or by a group, of our defenseless Palestinian people.

Fatah Hawks Say Responsible for Israeli's Murder

TA0103062794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Our correspondent in the territories reports that the Fatah Hawks announced in Khan Yunus this morning that their men were responsible for the murder of Morris Eisenstadt in Kefar Sava last Friday [25 February].

Algeria

Algiers Condemns Hebron Massacre; Zeroual Calls 'Arafat

LD2502232294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] In Algeria we note that the Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement in which it strongly condemned the terrible massacre committed against the Palestinian worshipers inside the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque, and called on the Security Council to adopt measures that secure the protection and safety of the Palestinian people. Before that the head of state, Liamine Zeroual phoned [PLO] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and conveyed to him the sympathies of the Algerian people following this massacre and Algeria's solidarity with the Palestinian people and its leadership in this tribulation.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Visits Algiers

To Meet With President Zeroual

LD2802123294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpts] In the context of his contacts after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in our country today, accompanied by an important delegation. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat will be received by State President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

According to information gathered at the VIP lounge of the airport, 'Arafat's visit comes in the framework of inter-Arab consultation following the recent developments of events in the occupied territories in the wake of the massacre of Palestinians performing prayers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in al-Khalil [Hebron].

Directly after seeing State President Liamine Zeroual, Mr 'Arafat will leave Algeria, and it is expected that he will be making a statement in the VIP lounge dealing with the latest developments in the occupied territories and their effects on the negotiations process. It will also deal with the PLO's reaction to the American and French proposals, to the measures taken by the Israeli administration concerning the Palestinian demand that Israeli settlers be disarmed, and to the request for international protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Departs After Talks

LD2802145594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Algeria at noon today after a short visit to our country which lasted a few hours. During this visit 'Arafat was received by State President Liamine Zeroual at the presidency. President 'Arafat discussed with the president the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

Armed Islamic Group Leader Reportedly 'Liquidated'

LD2802123894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The security authorities announced that Mourad Sid Ahmed, alias Djaafar El Afghani, who was the leader of the Armed Islamic Group, and nine of the members of his group were liquidated the day before yesterday in Algiers heights. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the security authorities reported that eight citizens, including two women, were assassinated last Thursday and Saturday in various parts of Algeria.

FIS Leaders Madani, Belhadj Released From Jail

LD2802142994 Rabat MAP in English 1334 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 28 (MAP)—President and vice-president of the out-lawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, serving a 12 year jail term each since 1992, were reportedly released, Algerian daily 'LIBERTE' said Saturday.

Certain sources said the two FIS leaders were put under house arrest in Douera (suburb south-east of Algiers) while others said they were in Zeralda (31 km west of Algiers).

According to the daily, other party leaders could have been freed last week. The releases, added the daily are part of a general amnesty which is likely to take place before the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Television Journalist Assassinated in Algiers

LD0103102694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The security services have reported today that our colleague Abdelkader Hireche, a journalist for Algerian television, was assassinated by three gunmen in the Broukna area of Gue de Constantine district, east of Algiers, at around 2130 yesterday evening. The security services have added that two citizens who were accompanying the victim were also hit by bullets. One of them is in a critical condition and the other one is not.

Hijackers Take Over Air-Algerie Airliner

Plane Taken to Alicante

LD2802152594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Algerian airlines company today confirmed that an Air-Algerie Boeing

727 airliner was highjacked today to Alicante airport, Spain. The plane was on a scheduled Oran-Annaba flight with 122 passengers on board, including a baby, and 9 crew members.

According to the Spanish press agency, the number of highjackers is thought to be three, and it is believed that they are asking for political asylum in Spain. According to Spanish television, strict security measures were taken in Alicante airport, while the authorities started contacts with the plane's captain.

Hijackers Surrender in Spain

LD2802201494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpts] There was a happy ending this evening to today's hijacking of the Air Algerie Boeing-727 to Spain, following the surrender of the three hijackers to the Spanish authorities and the release of all passengers. [passage omitted]

The hijackers made contact with the Spanish authorities and later released 12 passengers, including 8 women, 2 men, and 2 children. According to the Spanish minister of transport, the hijackers asked for political asylum.

Permanent contacts were established between the Algerian Embassy in Spain, represented by the Consul-general, and the Spanish authorities in Alicante. Immediately after the plane was hijacked, the Algerian Foreign Ministry set up an emergency committee to follow up developments of the affair and take the necessary measures. The hijacking, which saw a happy ending, lasted only a few hours and is now over.

Egypt

Israeli President Extends Condolences to Mubarak

NC2702132194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Israeli President Ezer Weizman telephoned President Husni Mubarak this afternoon to express his country's denunciation of the horrible crime that took place at the Hebron Mosque. He also extended condolences to President Mubarak regarding the Palestinian victims. He informed President Mubarak that he had visited Hebron this morning to meet with its mayor, the city mufti, and senior officials to extend condolences for the victims of the abominable crime.

Assistant Foreign Minister Meets Israeli Envoy

NC2702122794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hammam today met with David Sultan, Israel's ambassador in Cairo.

The Israeli ambassador stated after the meeting that they had discussed the attack on Palestinian worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

He said that the Israeli Government is trying to take measures to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

He added that the march to peace must not stop, because if it does that would mean that the extremists have succeeded in achieving their goals.

In this regard, he affirmed the importance of resuming the peace march as quickly as possible so that the extremists do not reach their objectives.

Commentary Predicts More 'Criminal Acts' by Israel

NC2802194294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Massacre in the Ibrahimi Mosque is Not the Last Criminal Act Against the Palestinian People"]

[Text] Anyone who believes that the horrendous crime committed by some Israeli terrorists against Palestinian worshipers will be the last criminal act in the occupied Arab territory is mistaken. The history of the Arab-Israeli conflict is nothing if not a tedious roster of acts of violence and terror by Zionist gangs. This has been the case since British colonialism implanted Israel on Palestine's soil.

The atrocity is reminiscent of terrorist operations carried out by Jewish extremists against the Palestinian people since the beginning of the occupation of the Palestinian homeland and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Repeated UN resolutions on the partition of Palestine between the Arabs and the Israelis and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination have been systematically ignored by Israel. Israel continued its criminal acts against the Palestinian people, safe in the knowledge that the punishment it is subjected to after each operation never goes beyond the rhetoric of denunciation for these operations and a perfunctory note that it should refrain from such acts in the future. Israel gains from such acts. It seized miles of Palestinian land, with the inhabitants forced to flee under pressure by Zionist gangs.

Zionist operations in Palestine began with the well-known Dayr Yasin massacre, only to be followed by atrocities in Nasr al-Din, Bayt al-Khuri, al-Zaytun, and Bayt Dras. Al-Aqsa mosque was not spared. Monasteries were not immune to attacks by Israeli gangs. Some of these gangs attacked the Greek Orthodox monastery in April 1990, occupied it, and converted it into barracks for Jewish settlers. The number of settlers has been constantly on the rise, particularly since Israel succeeded in obtaining $10 billion in loan guarantees from the Bush administration. The loan was used to help settle the new

immigrants who flocked to Israel from the former Soviet Union following the collapse of communism, as well as from poverty-stricken East European countries.

There is no doubt that the thousands who live in the settlements built by successive Israeli governments represent a source of continued tension in the occupied Arab territory. It is in these settlements that acts of aggression carried out by the armed Jewish settlers against the unarmed native population are planned. It is from these settlements that these acts are mounted.

Therefore, we categorically conclude that the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque against the Palestinian people will not be the last criminal act carried out by the settlers. This is because the settlers knew beforehand that reaction to their aggression would not exceed a strongly or even mildly worded resolution or statement, words that will have no perceptible mark on the political or economic life of Israeli citizens or governments. As long as the international community fails to assume its required duty vis a vis this steady stream of aggression, such attacks will persist.

We must say that the timing of this ugly crime cannot be lightly taken. Muslim worshipers were mowed down as they stood in piety before God. The fasting martyrs did not have stones in their hands for Israel to use as a pretext for carrying out its aggression. Most were elderly people who simply showed up for prayers at the prescribed time and place.

Israel's masks have fallen. Its unconvincing pretexts, which it routinely cites following every aggression against innocent Palestinians, have been invalidated. This time, the attacked Palestinians were not engaged in resistance against the occupation or pelting Israeli armored vehicles with stones.

Yes, all the masks have fallen. International public opinion can now see that it has been deluded into thinking that Israel was serious in seeking peaceful coexistence with the Arabs and earnest in wanting to make lasting peace with the Arabs, while all that time it was the Arabs who scrambled for peace and strove long and hard for its realization.

Despite the ugliness of the crime committed by the Israeli settlers against innocent Palestinians, we cannot absolve ourselves of responsibility for the atrocity. The absence of honest and serious Arab coordination was the crack in the Arab wall, through which Israel and others advanced their most odious schemes and got away with plots to destroy the Arab (?identity) and even the very faith of Islam. Serious and collective action is indispensable to confront these schemes that are now laid bare, shorn of their last bit of modesty.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Lebanon Church Bombing

NC2802163294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—The Muslim Brotherhood group, whose activities are banned in Egypt, has issued a statement denouncing the bombing of a church in Kasrawan, Lebanon. The statement also denounces the criminal hands which terrorize the public and stab Muslims in their backs as they kneel down to pray.

The statement says that enemies are hatching conspiracies to fan the flames of sedition among our people. We should foil these conspiracies through the unity of our ranks and the mobilization of our potential, the statement adds.

Reports View U.S. Embassy's Reaction to Terrorism

NC2402203594

[Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 21 February carries two reports on the response to possible terrorist threats by foreign embassies, particularly the U.S. Embassy.

The first report, written by Khalid Dawud, appears on pages 5-8. The 3,000-word report has a compound headline: "ROSE AL-YUSUF Uncovers Secret Meetings of the Foreign Communities; U.S. Security Patrols To Protect 12,000 Americans From Extremists; A Meeting in the UK Embassy: The British Did Not Panic; The German Embassy: Translating the Extremist Statements So That the Germans May Decide for Themselves; The French Embassy: These Are Internal Affairs."

Beneath the headlines, the magazine publishes two miniature, mostly unintelligible, photocopies of presumed U.S. Embassy documents. The first it describes as "security instructions issued by the U.S. Embassy Security Office to the members of the community." The other, on which the words "USIS Cairo" is discernible in boldface, is described as "an invitation by the U.S. Embassy for a meeting of the U.S. community and journalists to discuss the statement issued by the extremists."

The reports start out by saying:

"The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has convened two meetings of the U.S. community in Cairo to ask them to raise their security awareness and remain alert because 'the situation may change.'

"The first meeting was held at the embassy headquarters in Garden City last Sunday. The second was held at the American School in al- Ma'adi on Tuesday amid strict security measures and with a request by officials of the Embassy Media Office that nothing be published about what takes place in these meetings.

"What is peculiar is that the number of Americans who cared to attend the first embassy meetings did not exceed

50-60 people. This means that the embassy is more afraid than the community. Furthermore, many of those who came to the meeting were journalists who were eager to get a briefing about the situation.

"U.S. Embassy Security Official Robert O'Brien, who headed the meeting, said: 'This place is safe to live in, but this situation may be about to change.' Despite his assurances that the embassy does not advise U.S. nationals to leave Egypt or not to visit it, he pointed to the seriousness of the three recent terrorist statements, signed by the Islamic Group-Egypt."

The report summarizes the statements recently issued by the Islamic Group and goes back to the remarks made to the U.S. community by the U.S. Embassy security official, this time identified as "O'Brien Lee."

It says that the U.S. official "expressed particular concern over the second statement by the Islamic Group, 'because it was the most specific' regarding the threat against foreigners."

The U.S. official added "that they (the terrorists) will not have any credibility unless they carry out their threats, which is particularly worrying."

The report cites the U.S. official as warning U.S. nationals to be alert to changes in their environment, avoid calling attention to themselves, and alter their daily routines.

The report says: "The meeting also brought the revelation that the Americans, even prior to the latest terrorist threats, were running 'vehicled patrols' involving 11 roving cars carrying patrols of U.S. security men in al-Ma'adi and downtown."

The report then discusses the reactions of the UK, German, and French Embassies to the threat.

UK Press Spokesman Martin Day is cited as saying that, "Of course, these threats have to be taken very seriously." Day notes that a meeting of representatives of the UK community in Egypt was held "last week." The purpose of that meeting was "to inform the community of the content of the recent statements by the extremists." The report cites Day as saying that "most community members have not yet panicked because they know that the situation so far is reassuring."

Moving on to the German reaction, the report says that "a German Embassy employee said that what is going on now is a 'fax war' and that this is part of a clear strategy that the [extremist] groups are following to cause panic." German Embassy officials have met German teachers and businessmen living in Egypt to brief them on the latest developments. The embassy also translated the extremists' statements and provided the community with it so that "they can decide for themselves what has to be done," the report notes.

The report then says that the French Embassy, caring for a community of 5,000 French nationals, remains "the most reserved" of all embassies. A press spokesman for that embassy expressed a desire "not to comment on Egyptian domestic affairs." The report cites the spokeswoman that "even if meetings were held of the French community, this would be an internal matter." The report cites, without elaboration, that "similar instructions" have been issued by the Italian Embassy.

The report concludes by saying: "The atmosphere in the foreign embassies and communities is one of wait and see. Either the security forces will succeed in their daunting task of eradicating terror, or the terrorists will manage to stage renewed attacks. Any operations, small or big, will simply cause panic and instability, a matter that will harm the ordinary people even more than the government."

A 1,300-word unattributed report entitled "How is the Protection of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo Organized?" appears on page 8 of the same 21 February issues of the Cairo weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF. The report begins with a description of the U.S. Embassy's security arrangements:

"The U.S. Embassy in Cairo is open for only five days a week. But the Regional Security Office, located on the sixth floor of the ugly cement building, is manned 24 hours a day by 30 Marines and 300 Egyptian security men, who are positioned in various parts of the embassy.

"Not all the Americans working at the embassy are equal. This is particularly true for those who are allowed to move between the ninth and 15th floor of the new cement building, where the most important embassy offices are located, including the yet empty ambassador's office, still waiting for the new ambassador.

"The Security Office is responsible for the following: contacting Egyptian police and other security organs; providing advice to the ambassador on all matters of security; providing protection to all distinguished U.S. visitors; making investigations on behalf of U.S. legal authorities on background matters; making investigations into matters of terrorism, crime, and espionage; supervising the embassy's local 300-strong security force; running the security and alarm systems at the embassy; supervising the Marines; providing information about the security background of the employees and their revenue ['a'idatihim; a possible misprint of 'a'ilatihim, meaning families]; supervising the emergency plan in the event that the embassy is in danger; protecting all classified material; supervising security arrangements for U.S. residential quarters; and providing information for the U.S. business community on security-related matters, an effort coordinated by the U.S. State Department."

The report then notes that the Marine unit in the embassy is "one of the largest in the world" and that its personnel "are stationed in eight different positions in various parts of the embassy and at the gates."

The local security force, however, is responsible for protecting the main embassy gates and the residential quarters, and runs 11 car patrols in al-Ma'adi and the downtown areas around the clock.

The report notes that the Security Office has four stages of alert—white, yellow, orange, and red—corresponding to the intensity of the danger involved. The report says that "the embassy advises everyone to be on yellow alert."

The report then cites the U.S. State Department's travel advisory about Egypt and concludes by saying that "the U.S. Embassy in Cairo has asked U.S. nationals visiting Egypt or residing in the country to raise their security alertness and to avoid calling unnecessary attention to themselves or their activities."

Police Kill 5 'Terrorists' in Aswan Sweep

NC2802144294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Aswan, 28 Feb (MENA)—Security forces killed five terrorists today following a chase through farm areas in Aswan.

The incident took place during sweeps that began last night in Aswan. Security organs killed three wanted terrorists last night after they attacked a policeman.

According to security sources, the dead men were dangerous terrorists wanted by the police in connection with several crimes.

The eight terrorists attacked the sentry at the license office in Idfu yesterday evening, captured his rifle, and fled in a minitruck toward the village of (Kalj al-Jabal). The security forces immediately chased them and managed to kill three of them. The remaining terrorists hid in a sugar cane plantation. A police force led by Major General Sami 'Abd-al-Jawad, assistant to the interior minister and director of the Security Department in Aswan, surrounded them and exchanged fire. As day broke today, the police force raided the sugar cane plantation and found the bodies of the five other terrorists, the sentry's stolen rifle, and some weapons and ammunition. During the manhunt and raid, two policemen were martyred and another was injured and taken to the central hospital in Idfu.

Libya

Officials, Groups React to Hebron Massacre

Al-Qadhdhafi Issues Statement

LD2502184994 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawar 25 [25 February], Jamahirya News Agency—The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] made the following statement to JANA: The act committed at al-Harim al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the morning of the mid holy month of Ramadan is a horrific terrorist crime. It is one of the dirtiest crimes of terrorism and the most vile crimes of war. It is premeditated official terrorism being managed by the Israeli Government, a policy on which she sat up her entity since its establishment under the protection of the West and cover up provided by the Western forces supporting her terrorist policy which is founded on massacres. Although what happened represents the ugliest act of terrorism ever seen in the world and an act of blatant and gross terrorism but we challenge the West to declare this reality and admit that the act carried out by the Israelis is a pre planned act of official terrorism and part of a long chain of Israeli terrorist act and to condemn the Israelis for their terrorism.

The West, who put the names of the Palestinian people's freedom fighters on the black list, are supplying the Israeli terrorist with arms, nuclear weapons and F-15 and F-16 war planes.

It is the West who are supporting Israeli terrorism and sponsor it while they treat Palestinian freedom fighters as criminals despite the fact that they are fighting for the most sacred humanitarian cause in modern times. We believe that if there was a real security council other than the one dominated by the Christians and there was a real united nations other than dominated by the Christians we would have seen anyone who supported the Israeli terrorism and support it with weapons, nuclear weapons and other supplies put on the black list and subjected to air, naval and land embargo and be punished harshly for being a patrner in terrorism and supplying the Israeli terrorist camp with weapons. We challenge the international community if there is one to fulfill their humanitarian and required duty to assert justice. And after what the world has seen this morning is there anyone who can claim that 'Abu Nidal and Ahmad Jibril. [sentence as received; Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1710 GMT on 25 February carried a heavily garbled version of this report. In the Arabic version, this sentence reads: "And after what the world has seen this morning is there anyone who can claim that 'Abu Nidal and Ahmad Jibril are terrorists?"] After their terrorism and the premeditated and organized official terrorism which may ensue by the Israeli entity, there is no terrorist state in the world like the Israeli entity and there is no state sponsoring terrorism in the world like those states which sponser Israel and supply her with weapons and forge with her strategic alliance. [sentence as received]

'Abu Nidal, Ahmad Jibril and other fighters of the Palestinian people are angels if compared with the Israeli savages for the Palestinians have never committed horrific cirmes like those committed by the Israelis against innocent worshippers in this holy month. The Palestinian fighters are fighting in defence of their land occupied by the Israeli invaders and usurpers who came to it from overseas to commit this atrocities which shock human conscious. What is happening nowadays confirm

the credibility of our view point regarding this issue and prove the correctness of our dicta which we have repeatedly asserted.

Arab People's Congress Condemns Act

LD2602090894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA)—The permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress condemned the horrible massacre that was committed by the Zionist terrorists against people performing prayers at Abraham's mosque yesterday morning.

In a statement issued by the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress yesterday, the secretariat condemns this massacre, which embodies the hostility of the Zionist occupation and the destruction of the questionable calls for peace that some Arabs have followed.

The permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress called on the Arab nation to adopt a serious stance that strengthens the support for the Palestinian Arab people and does not let it be a helpless prey for the imperialist and Zionist forces.

The secretariat addressed also a call to the Arab leaders and heads of Arab liberation movements to make immediate and practical moves to support the Palestinian people and express the pan-Arab will and use it to put pressures on the UN and international organizations so that they condemn the enemy and implement international laws to give to the Palestinian people the right to recover all their rights.

Call Made for Arab Summit

NC2702165094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Libya has called for an urgent Arab summit to discuss Arab affairs and the massacre that Israel committed in Hebron on Friday.

Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity, has stated that he informed Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid of Libya's call, in compliance with the requirements of pan-Arab security and as part of the Common Arab Defense Pact.

In a news conference held last night, al-Fazzani added that Israel now, after concluding a deal for F-15 aircraft with the United States, has become a threat to the Arab and Islamic worlds. He stressed the need to lay down the foundations for a true inter- Arab integration agreement in accordance with the joint economic cooperation agreement.

In his news conference, al-Fazzani emphasized that Egyptian-Libyan relations are deep-rooted and serve the interests of both the Libyan and Egyptian peoples, thanks to the direct ties and deep understanding between the political leaders of the two countries. Al-Fazzani pointed out that two countries' executive institutions want to put Egyptian-Libyan integration into effect in all fields. He noted that a project to link the two countries by rail has already started from the Libyan side and that a joint oil project also has begun.

The Libyan official noted that there is an agreement between the two countries that gives their citizens full rights in either country. He pointed out that four Egyptian companies are working in the (?al-Wigh) project to prepare for settling approximately 4 million Egyptians in this agricultural area once the infrastructure work has been completed.

Al-Fazzani stressed that Libya cares about Egypt's security. He added: We will not permit anyone to stay in our country who could threaten Egyptian security. On this matter, al-Fazzani noted that the Libyan Government has allowed Egyptian authorities to inspect all Libyan cars that cross the borders, even those with diplomatic license plates.

In response to some accusations that Libya was lackadaisical about arresting some fugitive Egyptian elements, al-Fazzani stressed that Libya does not and will not allow its territory to be used in harming Egypt's security because that security is part of Libyan Arab security. Therefore, he added, Libya cannot allow any harm to be done to Egypt's security directly or indirectly.

Al-Fazzani also spoke about the conference for the three heavenly religions to be held in Tripoli on 12 June and attended by Islamic, Christian, and Jewish clerics. He pointed out that Libya calls for tolerance and common understanding among the heavenly religions and seeks to deepen faith and avoid collision among them. He said that as far as the presence of Israeli figures at this conference is concerned, the question of who will attend is a matter of formality that will be the responsibility of the international committee tasked with organizing this conference.

On the march of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], al-Fazzani disclosed that a Maghreb summit will be held in Tunis in the first week of April, adding that the AMU drive will continue despite the negative effects on the common Maghreb action resulting from the Libyan-Western crisis. He noted that the AMU member states have started to set up an Arab Maghreb free zone, secure trade exchange, and free movement for citizens using identity cards, as part of the rights of citizenship in the Maghreb region.

On Libya's conflict with Chad over the disputed Aozou region, al-Fazzani noted that the two countries have mutually agreed to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice in the Hague. He added that the ruling that the court passed giving Chad sovereignty over this region requires executive measures. The Libyan official declined to speak further about this matter.

Al-Fazzani denied that Libya is responsible for the disappearance of Libyan opposition figure Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared on 10 December 1993 after attending a human rights conference in Cairo. He ruled out the possibility of U.S. raids against the Libyan Jamahiriyah during the term of current Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Al-Fazzani emphasized that Libya is ready to open a dialogue with the U.S. Administration, provided that the Jamahiriyah's sovereignty is respected. He noted that dialogue is the key to solving disputes and consolidating international relations, in accordance with the UN Charter.

Turning to the Lockerbie issue, he noted that the defense panel tasked with defending the Libyan suspects involved in this case, which is made up of a number of Western lawyers, has decided that the guarantees offered by the United States and Britain are insufficient and do not ensure the necessary impartiality for the trial of its Libyan clients. Therefore, he added, the panel recommended that they do not give themselves up.

Sanctions Against Israel Urged

LD2602215394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has summoned the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members, accredited in the Great Jamahiriyah; he told them of the Great Jamahiriyah's outrage at the wanton massacre carried out by the Zionist occupiers inside the al-Ibrahimi holy shrine against worshippers, the sons of the Palestinian Arab people.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has asserted the need for the UN Security Council to impose harsh sanctions on the Zionist entity, not furnish it with any weapons and to impose a blockade against it.

He stressed, moreover, that if the Council failed to take any of the abovementioned measures, such a failure would be seen an encouragement for the Israelis to perpetrate further massacres and annihilate the Palestinian Arab people.

The brother secretary has asked the ambassadors to convey the abovementioned protest to their respective governments.

'Falsity' of 'Alleged Peace' Shown

LD2502141794 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] The Zionist terrorists carried out a massacre that claimed the lives of dozens of Arab Palestinians, as a part of the policy of annihilation pursued by the Israelis against the sons of the Arab Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

This massacre, which was committed by the Zionists inside the Tomb of the Patriarch in Hebron and in the middle of the blessed month of Ramadan, coincides with what is being publicized as peace with the Israelis, which led to direct negotiations between Israelis and Arab sides in Washington. It also coincides with direct talks between Israelis and officials from the Fatah organization to implement what has been labelled as the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Today's incident brought to light the falsity of this alleged peace, and exposed the plot that is being hatched, which is that what is taking places these days is not peace, but a method to force the Arabs to submit unconditionally, to destroy their nation, and annihilate their people.

This massacre also confirms other facts, the most important of which are: This massacre represents one aspect of the outcome of the so-called Gaza-Jericho Agreement. What has been committed by the Zionist occupiers represents the real terrorism that has been condemned and denounced by all international norms and treaties. This type of terrorism epitomizes the highest level of human rights abuses, that the West boasts to safeguard and protect. This begs the following question: What will the West do about this abhorrent act of terrorism? What will the UN Security Council do? This Security Council which is controlled by Western countries that claim to hold the torch to combat terrorism. These countries also level accusations of terrorism against anyone who does not follow their policies and does not succumb to their blackmail and orders.

The Israelis would not have continued to carry out their barbaric massacres and their annihilation of the sons of the Arab Palestinian people without the unlimited support lavished on them by the West through a supply of arms and funds, and through a policy of cover-up of their crimes and turning a blind eye on their accumulated arsenals of weapons of mass destruction. This policy falls within an alliance between the Jews and the Christians against the Arabs and Islam. This massacre would not have happened if we did not have some Arabs who rushed to recognize their enemy and submit to it.

Al-Qadhdhafi Informs Arab League of Intention To Withdraw

LD2802022694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, urgently contacted Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, brother leader of the revolution, following the arrival in Cairo of the secretary of the General People's Committee. Al-Qadhdhafi informed the Arab League's secretary general that the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity was in the process of submitting a proposal on withdrawing Libya from

the Arab League to people's congresses since the League had failed to offer anything to Arab peoples.

Member states of the League have participated in implementing a resolution, issued by the crusader enemy, on a blockade of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. The League has even been unable to amend its Charter and bring about Arab union, and it has not changed the Arab map while the map of the world had changed.

The Arab League has not been able to change its stance and has failed to resolve the Somalian crisis which was left to Christian countries. It has also failed to resolve the Yemeni problem, so much so that the U.S. President has started to issue orders to Yemeni forces to retreat to their barracks. It has also failed to do anything for the Lebanese Arab people and their occupied land, the Syrian Arab people and their occupied territories, and the annihilation of the Palestinian people. It has failed to make member countries respect its Charters; the joint defense pact was not applied during the attacks on Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Tunisia.

All of that was followed by the completion of the destruction of the League's Charter, resumption of relations with the enemy, and the lifting of the boycott when some members of the League announced that they would supply the enemy with energy and some have hosted and met the enemy's leaders. The Arab League has also failed to bring about a reconciliation among some Arabs: We could see Arabs and their enemies embracing, while the Arabs refused to meet each other. What is taking place is the Arabs' submission to U.S. and Israeli force that is imposed on them and the Arabs' unconditional surrender.

The Arabs have failed in international gatherings and the League has not succeeded in imposing a blockade on the Israelis, banning arms sales to them, and severing relations with them, while that is being applied against Arabs; they are being disarmed and banned from obtaining arms, as is the case with Libya and Iraq.

Therefore, the Libyan people are seriously thinking about leaving the Arab League so that Arabs will be able to welcome their brother Israel. On the basis of the communique submitted by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity to the Arab League, the League's secretary general urgently contacted the the brother leader of the revolution.

[Begin recording] ['Abd al-Majid] Your Excellency Colonel, I am Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes [words indistinct].

['Abd-al-Majid] Seasons greetings.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Good wishes.

['Abd-al-Majid] God willing, you are well.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well, thanks to God. How are you?

['Abd-al-Majid] Your Excellency Colonel, Unity Secretary brother Jum'ah al-Fazzani, and brother... [end recording, interrupted by announcer]

'Abd-al-Majid asks him not to submit the issue to the people's congresses in the Great Jamahiriyah until a meeting between Libya and the Arab League takes place.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Majid] I would like to see you and talk about it before you make a decision.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We appreciate your personal efforts and your loyalty to this nation. You are a brother to us. However, on the whole the Arab situation is like this.

['Abd-al-Majid] I know. He [not further identified] told me about the letter and the cable Your Excellency sent. This came at the right time.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] My brother, Israelis and Arabs are embracing each other while Arabs are not meeting each other. This does not make sense. Does it make sense that we embrace our bitter enemy every day, while the Arabs are not meeting each other?

['Abd-al-Majid] That is right.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is a scandal that Christians and the West go to Somalia, an Arab country, to solve its problems. Yemen is a member of the Arab League and an Arab country. Now there are military concentrations, and the U.S. President is saying that the military units have to return to their barracks. Muscat is inviting the foreign minister... [end recording, interrupted by announcer]

Brothers, that was the secretary general of the Arab League urgently contacting the brother leader of the revolution following the arrival of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in Cairo, who has informed the Arab League secretary general that the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity is about to submit a proposal on Libya's withdrawal from the League to peoples' congresses after the League's failure to offer anything to Arab people.

Yemen

YSP Deputy Leader Sees 'Threat of Civil War'

PM2502153194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: Salim Salih: Some Yemeni Forces Support Military Option; Experience Taught Us Signing Does Not Mean Anything"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has cast doubt on the possibilities of implementing the Yemeni Pledge and Accord Document signed in Amman last Sunday. And he warned of the threat of civil war.

The Yemeni official said at a press conference in Abu Dhabi following his meeting with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], that "the document will not see the light of day in practice except in the areas which fall under YSP influence." He also said that Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid will not go to Sanaa except after the implementation of the document begins.

The Yemeni Presidential Council member—who visited the UAE in the framework of a tour designed to explain the horizons of the Yemeni crisis after the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document—added that "there are those who are helping to bolster military action and military option tendencies and to turn the tables on all parties." He praised Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's understanding of conditions in Yemen. He said that "without securing a new mechanism to implement this document, it will remain in the drawer." He broached the experiment of the past four years, saying that "it has caused us to believe that signing is not the important step, but, rather, implementation and starting implementation."

He described the incidents which have occurred over the past two days in Abyan Governorate as "designed to torpedo the Yemeni people's prospects after the signing of the document." He said that "the document is not a medical prescription to remedy the Yemeni crisis. The crisis needs mutual and united efforts from all political parties and from all sincere people who want to spare Yemen a civil war and the road of violence, terrorism, and fragmentation."

Salim Salih Muhammad stressed that " 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general and vice president, will not go to Sanaa under the present security situation unless this situation is resolved and armed troops are withdrawn from the cities and unless credibility regarding what has been agreed upon is proved."

Asked whether that means that the document is merely ink on paper, the Yemeni official said: "It will be so if it remains in the drawer, if the situation remains as it stands, and if the Armed Forces and security forces continue to detonate the situation here and there."

He stressed that the document "will not see the light of day in practice except in the areas which fall under YSP influence."

Asked about the benefit of signing the document when the disputes are still there, Salim Salih said that "the signing is binding on all parties, and it exposes any parties that refuse to implement the document. At then the people will know who does not want to implement it."

He added: "It is clear that there are those who are helping to bolster the military action and military option tendencies. They want to turn the table on all the parties. This is what we want the brothers, friends, and the Yemeni people to be aware of."

Salim Salih Muhammad accused "some military commanders and other forces of supporting this tendency." He said that "the testimonies of those arrested pointed to the existence of these forces, which help, support, and sometimes embrace elements which have returned from Afghanistan and elements accused of carrying out bombing operations and assassinations and recently abducting three Chinese engineers."

On the nature of the disagreements which emerged in Amman after the signing of the document and prevented the return of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid to Sanaa, accompanied by King Husayn of Jordan, Salim Salih Muhammad pointed out that "what was agreed upon in Amman is only what is mentioned in the published document. However, there were some issues which needed to be discussed. But regrettably, the brothers in some parties, including the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping, did not give us the opportunity to do so." He added that the YSP submitted a working paper about what should be done after the signing, "but they refused even to read it."

Salim Salih Muhammad urged all parties on the Yemeni scene to take account of current changes and to work together to spare the Yemeni people the threat of civil war and fragmentation, secure whatever guarantees stability and development, and implement the various political, economic, and social plans.

He stressed that the YSP leadership is working to bolster Yemeni unity; it is not seeking separation. However, he warned that "unless matters are resolved fairly and rights are returned to their claimants, and unless local government is implemented, powers allocated, and a clear relationship between Sanaa and the other governorates and regions secured, we will find ourselves in a different position. What we fear is for Yemen to turn into more than one part, not just north and south, as was the situation in the past. Because changes have imposed on us new realities in relations and in understanding people."

On his visit to Kuwait—the first by a Yemeni official since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990—

Salim Salih described this visit as "a good start in the framework of establishing normal relations between the two countries." He also said that "for our part, we presented our view to normalize relations between the two countries."

He expressed his hope that Kuwait will transcend the deep wound with regard to Yemen's official positions during the Gulf war. he said, "we as brothers should transcend the past and look to the future."

He stressed that current conditions in the region, including the efforts to secure a solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, require the achievement of a degree of Arab solidarity. He expected Kuwait to embark in the period ahead on steps toward normalizing its relations with a number of states. He described the results of 'Ali Salim al-Bid's visits to Egypt and Syria as good, saying they have achieved their results at all levels.

Northern, Southern Forces Reportedly Clash

Update on Clashes, Military Moves

PM2502220394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Faysal Karam in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden]

[Excerpts] The situation remained tense yesterday in Yemen's Abyan Governorate as the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] exchanged accusations about provocative military movements. [passage omitted]

Military sources in Sanaa have revealed that a number of soldiers from the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade were ambushed yesterday morning in the town of Zinjibar, capital of the Abyan Governorate, by soldiers from the al-Wahdah Brigade and some YSP militia. They said that "a limited number of al-'Amaliqah Brigade soldiers were on their way to al-Razi Hospital in the town of Ja'ar to collect the body of a colleague of theirs treacherously killed by soldiers from the Madram Brigade camp, when they were intercepted and fired on by an armed group in front of the hospital. Brigade member Hazzam 'Ali Musayli was wounded."

According to other reports, tanks and howitzer artillery units from the YSP's al-'Anad camp have moved in the direction of the areas of al-Milah, al-Hubaylayn, and al-Dali' in the province of Lahij "to occupy the old partition positions and prepare to besiege the forces of the (northern) 2nd armored brigade stationed in the area of al-Milah in Lahij."

"Informed sources" in Aden have been quoted as saying that at dawn yesterday 12 tanks tightened their siege of the central security battalion in the Radfan camp in al-Sawlaban (Aden). They added that "the supply of water and electricity to the battlion were still cut off on the direct orders of Aden Governor Brigadier General Salih Munsir al-Suyayli who ordered the expulsion of that battalion from Aden to the remote area of Dar Sa'd." [passage omitted]

According to reports received in Aden from the Abyan Governorate, forces of the southern al-Wahdah Brigade "continue to hunt down members of the Islamic Jihad Organization concentrated in the al-Maraqishah mountains in the directorate of Mudiyah."

The same reports revealed "the arrest of 85 Islamic Jihad members of various Arab nationalities who participated in the armed clashes in the directorate" since last Monday between forces of the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade and forces of the southern al-Wahdah Brigade which came from Hadramaut (some 920 km east of Aden). [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH learned from YSP sources yesterday that the YSP's Political Bureau has been in "continuous session" since 'Ali Salim al-Bid's return to Aden the day before yesterday after brief visits to Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and Eritrea after signing the Pledge and Accord Document in the Jordanian capital last Sunday. The sources said that "al-Bid returned secretly to Aden after the discovery that there was going to be yet another attempt by the air defenses of the al-'Amaliqah Brigade to target his plane as it crossed the Abyan air space."

They also said that shots were fired by al-'Amaliqah forces on an Ethiopian Airlines plane over Abyan as it was on a regular weekly flight to Aden International Airport on the morning of the day before yesterday but it was not hit. [passage omitted]

GPC Urges End to 'Escalation'

JN2502171894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] met last night under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general.

The meeting addressed developments on the local scene in light of the final endorsement of the accord document on 10 Ramadan [20 February] in Amman, capital of fraternal Jordan.

The General Committee praised the role played by His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal in bolstering Yemeni unity and ending the political crisis suffered by our people over the past months. The General Committee asserted that all efforts should be made to immediately begin practical implementation of the accord document. The Political Forces Dialogue Committee said that once the document is finally endorsed, it becomes binding and ends the crisis.

The GPC General Committee further stressed the need for the state's legislative and executive agencies to reassume their duties. This step is a must to begin the implementation of the accord document. Any attempt to prevent Constitutional bodies from reassuming their duties means circumventing the document and weaseling out of its implementation, despite signatures witnessed by local and foreign public opinion.

Reviewing developments in the local arena, the General Committee took note of the military escalation that started on the eve of the signing of the document and the subsequent actions in the Abyan Governorate in particular. The citizens of the Abyan Governorate are facing unwarranted attacks and provocations by the military units that were moved from the Hadhramaut and Aden governorates in the direction of Abyan. This was done in violation of the accord document, which stipulates freezing any military moves, and in violation of the responsibilities of national duty, which require creating a suitable climate to immediately move to the practical implementation of the accord document.

The GPC General Committee asserted that all efforts should be made to avoid any new escalation in this regard and work to return all military units to their previous positions and take to task all those who are behind the military escalation. The purpose of this is to protect citizens and maintain the noble national missions of our Armed Forces, which we deem a bulwark that protects the homeland and its sovereignty and ensures the citizens' safety and security.

The General Committee urged the people, their valiant Armed Forces, all political parties and organizations, mass and other organizations, and ulema and social figures to stand united against those who advocate disunity and those who sow sedition and against all attempts to return to the situation that prevailed before 22 May 1990. All should stand united in defense of unity and democracy and in defense of social peace and the homeland's national interests and to prevent bloodshed and safeguard citizens' rights, security, and stability.

Reviewing the general situation in light of the aftereffects of the crisis, the General Committee also urged all state bodies and central and local institutions to exert more efforts in order to alleviate the citizens' living hardships. It also urged these bodies and institutions to make their first priority the lifting of all forms of suffering and putting an end to all manifestations of corruption and security violations. This is meant to ensure a strict enforcement of the law, without any hesitation or going easy on violators.

Concluding its meeting, the General Committee urged all members of the GPC and all its leadership and base cadres to promote their relations with the masses, adhere to the accord document, and promote awareness of the content of this document between the citizens. The document is a national program for the coming stage. It bolsters the unity of the people and the homeland and protects their democratic march that is based on political and party pluralism, peaceful transfer of power, and respect for the bodies of constitutional legitimacy that expresses the people's free will.

The General Committee highly appreciated the efforts of the GPC representatives in the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, stressing the need to support the committee's efforts in the present stage. Now that the document is signed, the committee will follow up on the implementation of the document.

During the meeting, the General Committee made several organizational decisions. It also issued a press statement.

GPC Regrets YSP 'Reckless Acts'

JN2602105094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 94

["Text" of statement issued by the GPC General Committee "at the conclusion of its meeting" on 24 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Press statement issued by the General Committee:

The General Committee held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC]. The General Committee discussed a number of topics on its agenda and the current developments, particularly the results of the signing in Amman of the pledge and accord document as well as the serious deterioration which preceded, coincided with, and followed the signing. This deterioration has threatened, from the first moment, the implementation of the document and aimed at emptying it of its national content on which all political forces were unanimous to tackle the exacerbating situation, At the top of this are the irresponsible acts, which are contrary to the contents of the document on the political, media, military, and diplomatic levels.

In light of this, the General Committee reiterated the clear principled stand of the GPC vis-a-vis the pledge and accord document as well as the responsibility of all parties, particularly the government coalition and the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, to fulfill the commitments included in the document. These commitments are represented by the urgent tackling of the situation, basic steps, and resolutions and stands that must be embarked on by the constitutional institutions within the framework of their tasks, powers, and obligations defined by the pledge and accord document as well as by the responsibilities that must be shouldered by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to implement the document on the fixed dates.

The General Committee also condemns all acts that aim at weaseling out of this responsibility as well as the deception which hides nonnational objectives and which reveals intentions not to implement the accord. The General Committee also denounces the reckless acts regrettably carried out by the leaders who are dominating the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to escalate anew the existing crisis, to kill innocent citizens and the sons of the Armed Forces and security, as what happened in the Abyan Governorate, and to embark on unjust acts that threaten the homeland today and in the future, its national sovereignty, security, and stability. These acts expose the hidden and rancorous intentions against the people, their unity, their freedom, and democracy. These acts have been blatantly exposed on the internal and external levels.

The General Committee reiterated the need to work wisely and with responsibility to foil these acts and to champion the principled constants in which the people believe and to which all sons of the homeland are committed. The General Committee reiterated the need to work in particular toward protecting the pledge and accord document and mobilizing popular and official efforts to implement this accord, which came to reinforce the victory of unity and democracy and to deepen the option of true democracy which was highlighted by our lofty and steadfast people through their free will on 27 April last year being the source of the work of the branches of power and the maker of all gains and achievements.

The General Committee greeted the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—king, government, and people—for the great efforts it made to contain and tackle the crisis in our country and to sign the pledge and accord document being an important national achievement that will entrench the march of unity and stability in the homeland.

The General Committee also expressed its appreciation for all ongoing efforts made by the sisterly and friendly states in this direction.

The General Committee appealed to all members of the GPC and all citizens in all governorates to exercise full vigilance toward everthing that aims at encroaching on the homeland's unity, security, and stability and at threatening the existence of the state and its constitutional institutions. The General Committee appealed to all to remain united to protect and safeguard constitutional legitimacy and to support the implementation of the pledge and accord document each in his position.

The GPC will continue its work and struggle with all the country's good people and their political, social, and popular forces to safeguard unity and Yemen's existence and future through work, production, freedom, and democracy.

Committee Fails To Remove Brigade

JN2602073294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', an official source at the Defense Ministry and the Command of the General Staff has noted that the military committee chaired by Colonel Staff 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff, which is charged with ending military deterioration, returned to Sanaa this evening. The committee (?failed) to return the military units of the al-Wahdah Brigade, which were moved from the Hadramaut Governorate to the Mudiyah area in the Abyan Governorate, and the 30th Brigade forces, which were moved to the village of (Kumkawz) in the Abyan Governorate because the other party did not respond to the committee's instructions and insisted on keeping the forces in these positions, thereby violating the decisions of the Presidential Council and the provisions of the pledge and accord document.

The source regretted the committee's failure in its mission as a result of the@obstacles placed in its way. This, the source added, will escalate tension in the area and aggravate the situation. The source added: At 1530 today, Friday, two military planes flew at low altitude over the city of Mudiyah and the al-'Amaliqah Brigade garrison and broke the sound barrier. This caused a state of fear among citizens. These irresponsible and reckless acts fall within the framework of provocative acts and continuous blatant aggressions to which the innocent, defenseless people in the steadfast Abyan Governorate are being exposed. Furthermore, the source added, these acts aim at tightening the siege on the al-'Amaliqah Brigade, which began on Sunday, 10 Ramadan [20 February], the moment the pledge and accord document was signed in Amman.

The source urged the Political Forces Dialogue Committee and the military committee to shoulder their responsibilities at this delicate moment and put an end to these reckless acts which only aim at obstructing the ongoing efforts to implement the pledge and accord document and at endangering the unity of the homeland and its Armed Forces.

Dialogue Committee on 'Deterioration'

JN2602090494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee [PFDC] has approved a statement and a decision was made to broadcast it yesterday, 14 Ramadan [24 February]. Regrettably, however, the PFDC rapporteur was informed that it would not be broadcast. The PFDC, which regrets this, hopes that this will not be repeated. Following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Statement issued by the PFDC:

The PFDC's meeting last night continued until a later hour. The committee continued its meeting this morning to review the developments in the national arena, particularly the serious political and media deterioration. The continuation of such deterioration will expose the homeland to serious dangers.

The PFDC had hoped that with the final signing of the document in Amman all parties would move ahead to implement its provisions and that the committee would then embark on its tasks represented by following up and supervising the implementation. However, it was surprised to see the continuous military and media escalation.

As the PFDC condemns these irresponsible acts, it appeals to the political and military leaders in the state to shoulder their national responsibilities, to take firm and swift measures to contain the situation, and to stop the escalation. It also asks the competent quarters to expeditiously hold investigations into what took place, to name those responsible, to reveal this to the people, and to return the military situation to normal.

All parties must shoulder this historic responsibility before God, the people, and our Arab and Islamic nation and be equal to it unaffected by narrow considerations.

The PFDC appeals to the people from all walks of life to stand against any action that threatens the homeland's unity and safety and to foil the attempts of the advocates of sedition who aim at harming the homeland.

The PFDC decided to form follow-up committees as follows:

1. To set up a military-political committee to follow up the efforts aimed at halting the deterioration. The committee comprises: Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum, Brigadier General Mujahid Abu- Shawarib, 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Jarallah 'Umar, Dr. Qasim Sallam, Colonel Husayn Sharaf (?al-Kifri), and Ahmad Jabir 'Afif.

2. To set up a media committee which comprises: 'Abd-al-Malik Mansur, Abu-Bakr Badhib, 'Abd-al-Qadir (?al-Qiyari), Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik al-Mutawwakil, and Muhammad Rawah Sa'id.

3. To set up a security committee which comprises: Brigadier General Ghalib (?Mutahhir) al-Qamashya, Colonel Ahmad al-Himsi, Colonel Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, Colonel 'Ali Qasim al-Mansur, Colonel 'Ali Ahmad al-Hubaysi, and Colonel 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Kibsi.

The PFDC also decided to hold its next meeting in the Abyan Governorate on Saturday and to address a message to the prime minister to remind him of the dates fixed in the accord document which begin immediately after its signing in accordance with the provisions of the document.

We ask Almighty God to preserve Yemen—land and people—and to protect us from harm. God is our best supporter.

[Signed] The Popular Forces Dialogue Committee, Sanaa

[Dated] 24 February 1994

Units Ordered to Precrisis Posts

NC2802100294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Aden, 28 Feb (MENA)—The military situation and developments in Yemen were discussed in Aden yesterday evening by a joint military committee in the presence of Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir.

During the meeting, the committee expressed the hope that efforts will succeed in putting all the remaining tense areas under control, returning all military units to precrisis positions, and showing these units' commitment to the committee's instructions in accordance with the authority entrusted to it by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The committee's official spokesman announced that the committee—composed of the Yemeni-Omani-Jordanian commission—has met in Sanaa and Aden in the presence of the U.S. and French military attaches. It agreed to return all the units that had left their posts during the crisis to their original stations, stop the clashes that have occurred in certain areas, prevent the setting up of new posts on public roads, and remove those newly set up posts, and prohibit any military movement unless the Joint Military Committee approves it.

The spokesman stated that the committee will undertake observation duties and supervise the implementation of its decision as of today, Monday.

Defense Ministry: Attacks Launched in South

EA2802203094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the Office of the Defense Minister; place and date not given]

[Text] Less than 24 hours after the signing by the president and the vice president of the document giving a mandate to the joint military committee to tackle the deterioration of the military and security situation and the implementation of the security and military aspects of the pledge and accord document, we were surprised by the irresponsible behavior on the part of the giants' [al-'Amaliqah] forces. This behavior was represented by their attack on the 36th Infantry Battalion of the Unity [al-Wahdah] Brigade stationed in Mudiyah Province in Abyan Governorate. The al-'Amaliqah forces used in their barbarous attack Katyusha missile launchers, tanks and artillery, as well as other medium and light weapons.

This attack targeting the 36th Battalion was accompanied by another military attack, targeting towns, villages and small villages in Mudiyah Province, when military units of the al-'Amaliqah forces carried out intensive shelling of peaceful inhabitants.

Sanaa GPC Commands on Crisis

JN0103083794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 94

["Text" of cable from the Sanaa commands of the GPC to the members and chairman of the Presidential Council; date not given]

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC), and respected brother members of the Presidential Council: Our Yemeni people are experiencing one of the most critical and important stages they have faced throughout their protracted militant history, during which they succeeded, through the sacrifices and the struggle of their valiant sons, to wrest one victory after the other during their blessed revolutionary march. Our people managed to wipe out the despotic imamate regime, to expel the odious colonialism from our pure land with the eruption of their glorious 26 September and 14 October Yemeni revolution, and to restore their cherished unity on 22 May 1990, and realize their democratic and ambitious achievement on 27 April 1993, which exemplifies the Yemeni people's generous offering.

Our people who have scored these victories are capable of protecting and safeguarding them, irrespective of the crises and the fierce attacks by the enemies of their revolution and of their unity and democratic gains, and those who advocate a return to the abhorent partitioning era.

Under these circumstances, the Sanaa GPC commands held a meeting last night to discuss the crisis that has been besetting our people over the past six months, and the deterioration in the quality of our people's daily lives and the recent breakdowns in the military area.

While they voice deep concern over these breakdowns, the Sanaa GPC commands emphasize that they abide by the national constants of the revolution, unity, and democracy, stress the importance of complete abidance by the contents of the document of pledge and accord and the need for the coalition parties, in particular, and the other parties and national forces in general to carry out serious and sincere work to implement its provisions with a one-man team spirit and a united political will, and to translate it into practise and immediately start to return the military situation to what it used to be before 19 August to avoid sedition, prevent the differences becoming further entrenched and the crisis from being exacerbated, as well as having the political leadership meet and reactivate the state's executive and legislative bodies to have them carry out their duties in accordance with the Constitution, and the respect for constitutional legitimacy which is a gain for our Yemeni masses.

The Sanaa GPC commands also stress the importance of immediate action to enhance the efforts that state leaders and institutions are exerting in a cohesive manner to end the people's living tribulation which resulted from the crisis, and end the mad increase in prices.

The Sanaa GPC commands in these blessed days appeal to the GPC command and to all the political parties to fear God when they deal with their people and homeland. We must all work united to avoid our people being dragged into the abyss which will benefit only the enemies of the homeland who seriously seek to harm its unity and democractic gains. From this premise, we have to renew our victories along our national march in keeping with the faith we have always placed in our people that they will remain loyal to the martyrs, to the principles of the immortal revolution, and to the blessed unity.

In conclusion, the Sanaa GPC commands emphasize that they will diligently and seriously work out of conviction and will exert all efforts to implement the document of pledge and accord and to cooperate with all the honest national forces to overcome all obstacles and decislvely tackle all the impediments that may hamper the implementation of the document. We ask God to grant success to all in service of the homeland's welfare, stability, and prosperity.

Defense Ministry Accuses South

NC0103122094 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, March 1 (AFP)—A Yemeni defence ministry spokesman here Tuesday accused southern troops of shelling a region of Abyan province and denied that northern soldiers were to blame.

Earlier Aden radio, quoting another senior official at the ministry, said troops of the former North Yemen had launched an offensive "against the 36th division of Al-Wahdah brigade and against civilians" at Mudiyah, in Abyan.

The northern forces used tanks, artillery and multiple rocket- launchers, charged the radio in the south's main city.

However, the ministry spokesman in Sanaa said that "forces under elements influenced by the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) shelled inhabitants of Mudiyah with heavy artillery late Monday."

The Aden-based YSP is led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner and chief political rival of President 'Ali Abdallah Salih, who is based in Sanaa.

The latest accusations came after Jordanian and Omani mediators announced Monday that northerners and

southerners had agreed to measures to halt fighting which has cost at least 20 lives in the past week in Abyan alone.

The country, formerly divided into North Yemen and communist- ruled South Yemen, was unified in May 1990, though each side retains a separate army.

A political crisis erupted last August when al-Bid refused to take up his duties in Sanaa, demanding decentralisation and economic, political and military reforms.

Al-Bid and Salih signed a reconciliation accord in Jordan on February 20, but it has so far failed to end the crisis.

Salih, al-Bid Sign Military Committee Document

NC2802063494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid yesterday evening signed a document on setting up the military committee in charge of withdrawing military units and returning them to their barracks and following up the implementation of the provisions of the Pledge and Agreement document.

In another development, the European Union ambassadors in Sanaa appealed to all the parties to the recent violent clashes to refrain from making any military moves that could adversely affect the implementation of the Yemeni reconciliation agreement.

Formation of Government Excluding YSP Rumored

Al-Iryani Reportedly To Head Government

PM2502154594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Al-Iryani Proposed To Head a Yemeni Government Excluding Socialist Party"]

[Excerpt] London, Sanaa, Aden, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in the Yemeni capital have said that there are rumors about the possibility of entrusting Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani with forming a national unity government whose task is to implement the Pledge and Accord Document. However, political sources close to the Yemeni Socialist party [YSP] leadership stressed that "the party refuses to participate in such a government." They expressed their confidence that all the other parties would not join a government that includes the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] and excludes the party, because "it would be a partitionist government by all standards."

This comes in the context of reports that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wishes to end the present coalition by excluding the YSP, relying on the parliamentary majority the GPC and YRG enjoy in the House of Representatives. Especially as former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad turned down a YSP offer to head a new government in place of the present government headed by Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

An opposition sources share the view of a high-ranking YSP official that "anyone can form a secessionist government if he wants to." But the main current issue is to safeguard unity. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Report

JN2402140694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, 24 Feb (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development and member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC], has denied reports that a new Yemeni coalition government will be formed soon without the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

In a statement published today by the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, Dr. al-Iryani said these reports are baseless, pointing out that the formation of a new Yemeni government is presently not a subject of discussion.

The paper disclosed that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has invited his "deputy" 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [former president of South Yemen] to form a new Yemeni government to replace the government of Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the current Yemeni prime minister. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, however, rejected the offer.

SAIRI Condemns Hebron Massacre

NC2802174694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Feb 94

["Text" of statement issued by the External Relations Department of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI); date not given]

[Text]

Once again, the Israeli Zionists have committed a bloody massacre, carried out this time in the sacred al-Ibrahimi Mosque. Hundreds of Palestinian faithful were victims of this massacre while praying at dawn on Friday last week during the month of Ramadan. This crime is a manifestation of the constant violations the Muslim Palestinian people are being subjected to. It also brings to mind the Dayr Yasin massacre and other methods of killing and oppressing Palestinians, which reveal Israel's true morality.

This crime, which has shaken humanity's conscience, is a warning to the Palestinian people not to feel at ease with their enemies, not to give in to the imposed existing reality, and to continue their struggle until victory. This horrible crime exemplifies the inability of the Israeli enemy to stop the intifadah. It also shows that the Israeli enemy is upset about the heroism and steadfastness of the Palestinian people and the stone-throwing generation, and wants to take revenge for the Muslims' persistence in bearing sacrifices in order to maintain the state of jihad and reject capitulation as 'Arafat and his followers are doing.

The Israeli entity is fully responsible for this crime. Those who protect this entity, including the forces of arrogance, are also jointly responsible because they continue to support this entity fully. The Muslim nations and peoples must shoulder their responsibilities toward what the Palestinians are being subjected to, such as humiliation and aggression, by putting pressure on those with decision-making influence, providing moral and material support for the Palestinian people's jihad, demanding protection for the Palestinian civilians through any means, and boosting morale in the Islamic world to continue Muslim resistance to the status quo policy which forces them to accept the legitimacy of the usurping entity in Palestine.

The Iraqi people, who are also being subjected to the policy of extreme oppression by Saddam's murderous regime, share the sorrows of their brothers in Palestine over this tragedy. The belief in sacrifice is the correct course for regaining one's rights. The Iraqi people also believe that the foolishness of Saddam Husayn and his regime in Iraq are in part responsible for the current disintegration and weakness of the Islamic countries' stands and duties toward the holy cause in Palestine.

We extend our condolences to all the aggrieved families and share the sorrows of the struggling Muslim Palestinian people. We believe that the souls of the innocent victims and the blood of the wounded in the sacred al-Ibrahimi Mosque will be the fuel that will feed the flames of the Palestinian intifadah and revolution and consume the Israeli designs. We call on God the Almighty to take the hand of the Muslims, lead them to their dignified status, and make them triumph over their enemies.

Kurds Return Helicopter, Not Pilot, to Iran

PM2602154794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Iraqi Kurdistan Returns Iranian Helicopter"]

[Excerpts] London—Sources from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani have said that the "government of the Kurdistan region" in northern Iraq returned to Iran last Tuesday the Iranian helicopter one of whose two pilots sought political asylum after the helicopter landed in Mawat in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate last Saturday.

The sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone yesterday that an Iranian delegation arrived in Iraqi Kurdistan last Tuesday and held talks with Kurdish officials. The talks resulted in the Iranian delegation recovering the helicopter, which suffered a technical fault while returning to Iranian territory—which forced the pilot to conduct an emergency landing in the mountainous area of Azmar near the Iranian border.

The sources expressed their belief that the helicopter has probably now returned to its Iranian base. [passage omitted]

The KDP sources stressed that the Kurdish authorities refused to hand over to the Iranian delegation the Kurdish [as published] pilot whose application for asylum—the first if its kind since the Kurdish government was established 20 months ago—is still being considered by the relevant authorities.

Sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that leading bodies in the "Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan" have ratified the reconciliation agreement concluded on 17 February between its general guide Shaykh 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

At another level, KDP sources have said that Iraqi Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, half brother of Saddam Husayn, recently supervised the execution of 20 citizens from the Kurdish city of Karkuk, which is under the control of the central government in Baghdad. The sources added that bodies of the citizens, arrested in December on charges of opposing the Iraqi regime, were later handed to their families. The bodies were disfigured as a result of the torture they suffered during their interrogations.

The sources mentioned the names of five victims: Mala Hakim Ghafur Hamah Rida, Mala Najm-al-Din Sayyid Rashid Banghuli, Fakhr-al-Din Hamah Sa'id, Amanj Fakhr-al-Din Hamah Sa'id, and 'Ali Dawudi. Their ages range between 13 and 50.

Iran's Velayati To Visit; Opposition Acts Curbed

PM2802144594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "With Announcement of Velayati Visit to Baghdad, Tehran Puts Pressure on Iraqi Opposition To Freeze Its Activities"]

[Text] London—Iraqi opposition sources have said that the Iranian Government has in recent weeks intensified pressure on the Iran-based Iraqi opposition movements to freeze their activities in preparation for a visit Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is scheduled to make to the Iraqi capital soon.

The sources—which are close to Iraqi Shiite movements which have offices and camps in Iran—revealed that the Iranian authorities have banned these movements from carrying out any military activities across the border. They added that the measures included the movements' main offices in Tehran, Ahvaz, and Khorramshahr in the Khuzestan region (Arabistan) along the border with Iraq.

The sources in question told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iranians have substantially reduced the facilities they have provided to these movements over the past 15 years. In this connection they cited the withdrawal of 23 Iranian vehicles placed at the disposal of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which is led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

The sources say that al-Hakim is alarmed at Iranian actions designed to put pressure on the Iraqi opposition to freeze its activities, while Baghdad openly continues to support the Iranian opposition operating from inside Iraqi territory.

Baghdad announced that early in the month Mojahedin-e Khalq carried out military exercises, using heavy weapons, in Iraqi areas bordering Iran. And Iraqi media services published a report—with pictures—about a meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian opposition movement.

Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, visit the Iranian capital last week. He held five days of talks with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials. The talks centered on the outstanding problems between the two countries from the eight-year war (1980-1988) between them. Especially the issues of prisoners, border demarcation, and regulating navigation in Shatt al-'Arab, in addition to the problem of the Iraqi aircraft that flew to Iran during the Kuwait liberation war in 1991 and which Tehran has refused to return to Baghdad.

Meanwhile press reports published in Baghdad and Tehran spoke of the two sides' failure to secure solutions to these problems during the Iraqi official's visit to the Iranian capital. The announcement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi last Thursday during his visit to Germany that Minister Velayati will visit Baghdad soon is an indication that great strides have been+made in the endeavors to normalize Iraqi-Iranian relations. Because that visit will be the first to Baghdad by an Iranian official at this level since the downfall of the Shah's regime early in 1979. In this context the information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from opposition organizations very close to Iran confirms that Tehran and Baghdad have agreed to upgrade the diplomatic representation between them to ambassadorial level. And that the two capitals are currently considering naming their ambassadors—which is expected to be announced on the eve of or during Velayati's visit to Baghdad.

Al-Majid Reportedly Moved From Amman After Surgery

PM2502154994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "A Hospital Is Sought To Treat Husayn Kamil"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi sources have confirmed that Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, the Iraqi president's son-in-law [and industry minister], has been moved from Jordan with a view to giving him intensive treatment after the first brain surgery he underwent 10 days ago. The sources believe al-Majid may end up in a Swiss hospital, as the French authorities refused to grant him an entry visa to their territory. The Iraqi Embassy in Amman sought to move the Iraqi president's son-in-law to Switzerland, Cuba, Romania, or Russia.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Hebron Massacre

TA2802154794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1407 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset plenum on the 25 February massacre in Hebron—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, President of the State of Israel; Mr. Speaker of the House; distinguished Knesset:

This House has seen hard times as well as glorious days. This House has witnessed the birth pangs of the State of Israel, its struggle for survival, its dreams of peace. In my capacity as defense minister and prime minister, I have stood on this podium dozens of times. At times I imparted bitter news, and on occasion I announced good tidings. Today I stand before you, members of the Knesset, and before the citizens of the State of Israel and the entire world, and as a Jew, as an Israeli, and as a human being, I feel shamed and disgraced by the infamy wrought upon us by a base murderer.

Members of the Knesset, perhaps more than any other people and nation in the world today, Israel has been waging a bloody fight for its survival for more than a generation. We have been hit by Arab terror, which continues to strike us. From time to time, too frequently, we bury our dead, grit our teeth, and go on. We fight, lose our best friends—both civilians and soldiers, cherish the memory of the victims, and go on. Throughout this long time, we have tried to maintain our image as the nation that imparted moral and cultural values to the world. It is not easy for a country engaged in an endless war to maintain its human image and moral standing. Although we have experienced anomalies and tragedies, we have earned our good reputation with blood, with the blood of the members of the prestate underground organizations, with the blood of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who lost their lives when a woman hid a terrorist behind her back as she breast-fed her baby and when enemy soldiers raised their arms in surrender while concealing a hand grenade that was about to explode.

We fight, and when there is no other choice, we kill those who come to kill us. We are not murderers.

This is the time and place to extend our gratitude to thousands of IDF soldiers, to the Shin Bet, to the Israel Police and Border Police personnel, whose hard work is the insurance policy of the State of Israel. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Members of the Knesset, early on the morning of Friday, 25 February, a tragedy befell the families of the murdered victims, the residents of Hebron, the Palestinians, the State of Israel, and the Jewish people. In the city where the father of both Israel and Ishmael lived—the city that experienced coexistence, as well as the abhorrent pogrom against the Jews—in Hebron, a Jew desecrated the holiness of the Cave of the Patriarchs. At a time when hundreds of Muslim worshipers were praying to their God in the middle of the Ramadan fast, a villainous Jew opened fire, killing dozens of Muslim worshipers and wounding dozens more. To date, we do not know the exact number of dead and wounded. We know this much, however: This is a great tragedy, a terrible disaster.

The Israeli Government, and I believe and hope the entire Knesset, sends its condolences to the families whose dear ones were killed in cold blood and wishes a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Members of the Knesset, even before the Cabinet decided to set up a state commission of inquiry, we began our own investigations, which are still under way. We are leaving no stone unturned in our search for the truth. Nevertheless, at this point we can already state with almost total certainty the following facts: The wicked murderer acted alone, and he had no partners in the firing inside the Cave of the Patriarchs. As far as we know at this stage, the murderer managed to shoot from his rifle alone at least 111 bullets at the innocent worshipers who were praying to their God and did not notice the villain laying in ambush.

I would like to add that 111 cartridges were found and, according to the investigation conducted by the Israel Police Department of Investigation and Forensic Science, all were fired from his rifle. Not a single cartridge fired from a different weapon was found. In the riots that broke out in several locations in the territories after the massacre, there were several instances in which IDF soldiers were forced to fire to defend themselves because their lives were endangered. As a result of that fire, some residents of the territories were killed or wounded. The investigation into that is still going on. When it is concluded, we will make all the findings public and hide nothing. Any attempt to present IDF soldiers as partners to the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs, however, is absurd.

Could the massacre have been avoided? We are living in a difficult situation in which Jews and Arabs live side by side, rubbing shoulders daily and hourly. Thousands of Jews and Arabs live in one area and mix in hothouses, markets, fields and citrus groves, in buses and taxis, in cafes and restaurants, at building sites and in factories. Thus Jews and Arabs have been praying side by side in the Cave of the Patriarchs, a holy site for both religions, since 1967. We—Arabs and Jews—have been destined to live together in Israel and the territories, and there is no possibility of completely preventing lunatics from both sides from exploiting that situation in order to carry out attacks. The truth must be told, even at this hour. We Israelis have suffered far more from terrorist attacks, but we are also mindful of the suffering of the Palestinians and of any human pain. We feel for all grief.

Members of the Knesset, this is a difficult time for the citizens of the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and anybody in whom a human heart beats. This despicable act is so foreign to us, so un-Jewish, so abhorrent, that

the quote from the Bible, which we gave to all people of cultures everywhere, is apt: Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. O my soul, come not into their council; O my spirit, be not joined to their company; for in their anger they slay men, and in their wantonness they hamstring oxen. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel. [Genesis 49:5]

Members of the Knesset, the villain from Hebron put a mark on all of us, even though we are not to blame. That despicable man may not have been deranged in the clinical sense of the term when he pulled the murderous trigger, but the ghastly act was that of a mentally ill person, and in our hearts we feel only deep contempt for his vile deed. That murderer surfaced from within a small, limited political framework. He grew up in a morass whose sources exist here and overseas. They are foreign to Judaism; they do not belong to us. To him and those like him, we say today: You are not part of the people of Israel; you are not part of the national democratic camp in which all in this House are partners. Many among us despise you. You are not partners to the Zionist effort. You are an alien element; you are wild weeds. Sane Judaism vomits you out from its midst. You have alienated yourselves from the community, according to the Halakah. You are a shame to Zionism and a disgrace to Judaism. One direct line links all the lunatics and racists of the world, a single line of blood and terror from the Islamic Jihad that shot at Jewish worshipers at prayer in synagogues in Istanbul, Paris, and Amsterdam and including the Jewish Hamas member who shot at Ramadan worshipers.

Yesterday the government made the following decision:

a. In view of the extraordinary circumstances and under the Commission of Inquiry Law, 1968, it was decided to set up a commission of inquiry into the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs on 25 February 1994;

b. After hearing a report by the security services and after being presented the attorney general's opinion, the government decided on a series of individual measures against extremists among the Israeli residents of Judaea and Samaria, as follows:
1. Carrying out administrative detentions;
2. Imposing restrictive and supervisory orders governing the entry of certain people to Judaea and Samaria and to Hebron; and
3. Revoking gun permits for certain people and disarming them;

c. Tasking the attorney general with investigating the possibility of outlawing Kakh and Kahana Hay;

d. Registering the statement by the prime minister and defense minister on the release of some 800 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, with the aim of reaching the release of up to 1,000 detainees and prisoners within the coming week;

e. Reopening the Cave of the Patriarchs after determining new security and prayer arrangements.

Members of the Knesset, we are proud of our democracy; there are few like it in the world. Each citizen of Israel has the right to express his opinion in a democratic manner, to oppose or support government policy. There are those who claim that the democratic system is weak in the face of other systems of government in the world. I say to you that even the weakest democracy must defend itself and its values, and that we will do. We will not permit anybody in the State of Israel or the territories under its control, regardless of his name or position, to determine or change the policy of the government—any government—by trying to extort at gunpoint or through false messianic claims. No political movement or power group—secular or religious—will dare to raise its hand against democracy here. We, as a government, will stand like a fortified wall and without mercy, and we will use all legal measures, even if force is required, to quash any such attempt in the bud.

Members of the Knesset, we know today that the murderer from Hebron fired at innocent people but planned to kill the peace. His aim was political. To all those who still have doubts about the State of Israel's commitment to peace, I say with a clear voice: Do not be mistaken. We will continue to work for peace on the basis of the Declaration of Principles, signed in Washington, and the Cairo document. We will accelerate the talks, the contacts, and the negotiations. Even if it tarries, peace will come. Nevertheless, I must make clear to our Palestinian partners at the negotiating table: The vile murder in Hebron and the mourning and grief will not move us from our positions of principle regarding Israel's security and the security of its citizens, including the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We have no intention of compromising, even one iota, on security matters which affect each one of us. Our security is also your security and the supreme guarantee of the success of peace. I will tell you today: No knife, no firebomb, no stone will deter us from upholding our principles concerning security while continuing to hound the perpetrators of terror. We will not let them rest.

I wish to say something else to the Palestinians, our partners at the negotiating table in Taba, Paris, Cairo, and Washington: We understand you and grieve with you over the terrible tragedy. We identify with the deep grief, sorrow, and the tears, and we know that even when peace comes, both of us will lick the wounds from the wars. We invite you to return to the negotiations table, to resume the talks. We will return to continue the negotiations because after the blood and tears, the near future may bring what we have sought and dreamed of for so long: to put an end to 100 years of war and terrorism and to start to live like all other nations. We are close to the target in the next stage of the peace negotiations. We see the finishing line. More effort, more readiness, more goodwill by you Palestinians and by us, and we will

succeed. We will bring peace to our homes and our children. We have no other way—only peace, and nothing but peace.

I want to make several remarks to the Israeli Arabs. For a generation, you have been part of us for good and for bad. You were with us for dozens of years during hard times for you and us, and despite all the difficulties, you have been loyal partners. We managed to achieve coexistence, and we want it to continue. We understand your grieving hearts at this hour, but we believe that we must not let momentary crises affect the glorious times that we can expect. We will not permit difficult crises, no matter how many there are, to destroy the fabric of relations we have built over dozens of years.

Members of the Knesset, in my worst dreams I did not believe that I would stand here today in front of you under such difficult circumstances. I would like to hope and believe that this nightmare will pass, but not before all of us on both sides of the border understand that there is hope for a solution to this unending bloodbath, and it is peace. I believe and hope that this house is united in denouncing the crime and in expressing condolences, just as it is united in the aspiration for peace, even if there are differences of opinion between us on how to achieve it.

I will conclude with the words of the Hebrew poet Bialik: How great the pain, and how great the shame, and what is the greater of the two? Man, you tell me.

Rabin Briefs Ambassadors on Hebron Mosque Attack

TA2602191594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the talks with the Palestinians will resume in Washington on 2 March upon the invitation of President Clinton. Israel accepted the President's invitation, but it is still not clear whether the Palestinians also accepted. The prime minister made these remarks to 70 ambassadors posted in Israel whom he summoned to his office in Tel Aviv in order to brief them about the Hebron incidents and the political situation.

The prime minister called on the Palestinians to act like Israel and to totally separate between the Hebron incident and the continuation of the political process. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports the prime minister reiterated that as an Israeli, a Jew, and a human being, he is ashamed that an Israeli Jew perpetrated this massacre. He emphasized, however, that there is no proof that it was part of an organized action.

Rabin 'Knows' Peace Negotiations To Be Resumed

TA0103053394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he hopes and knows that the peace negotiations will be resumed. Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, he said the massacre at the mosque in Hebron would be remembered as the Black Friday of the Jewish people. Rabin was asked if he would accept the PLO's demand for an international force in the territories to protect the Palestinians:

[Begin Rabin recording] In the DOP [Declaration of Principles], it is written international presence but not international forces presence, and we offer that in the context of the Gaza-Jericho First, we will not oppose representatives or international presence of certain individuals in Gaza and Jericho—not a force, not armed people. This is part of the DOP. Whatever we sign, we'll stick to it. All the other demands I believe that you mentioned—dismantling of settlements, no; disarm of all arms from settlers, no. [end recording]

Peres: Extreme Right 'Enemies of the People'

TA2802141794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said we have suffered a heavy blow in international public opinion in the wake of the Hebron massacre, but he hopes it will not last long and tourism to Israel will not be harmed. The prime minister told Labor's caucus that it is Israel's aim to bring about gradual calm because in the final analysis the solution to the problem is political. We will, however, continue to act against Palestinian terrorism and Jewish extremists. The prime minister stressed that Israel is determined to uphold the agreements with the PLO and to continue the negotiations.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sharply attacked right-wing extremists at the caucus meeting. Peres expressed shock not only at the appalling massacre, but also the rejoicing and gloating by the extreme right. What is most frightening is that Qiryat Arba' is a hotbed for the murder; we have no dialogue with those people, Peres said. They can cause a terrible catastrophe to the Jewish people, they are the enemies of the people, and they have to be treated like enemies. The man who perpetrated the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs has been damned to hell. His cohorts, who are now strutting like peacocks, have to have their weapons confiscated, and a series of measures have to be taken against them in order to prevent them from causing more damage and we must not hesitate.

Cabinet 'Majority' Said To Favor Removing Hebron Jews

TA2802190494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] For the first time ever, Israel is prepared to allow the deployment of forces under international supervision in Gaza and Jericho. This emerged this evening in consultations held by the prime minister and the foreign

minister. A check conducted by our correspondent reveals that a majority is emerging in the cabinet in favor of evacuating the settlers from the heart of Hebron. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Shim'on Peres set the tone in yesterday's cabinet session, when he called on his fellow ministers to comply with the new demands of the Palestinians. Today he reiterated as much it in public.

[Peres] To the extent that their demands are sensible, they will be examined. For example, if the Palestinians say the size of the police force must be increased, I believe it is a legitimate demand which requires pointed discussion.

[Rosen] It is now clear that the cabinet's decisions are not enough, and that the PLO will have to be given more. Some ministers, including hawks such as Ya'aqov Tzur, argue that much more than 30 settlers must be disarmed and their movements must be restricted.

More radical proposals have been floated in the cabinet. For example, there apparently is a majority in favor of evacuating the settlers from Bet Hadasa, Bet Romano, and Tall al-Rumaythah in Hebron. Half the cabinet ministers are unequivocally in favor of such a move: The four ministers of Meretz—Shulamit Aloni, Ya'ir Tzaban, Yosi Sarid, and Amnon Rubinstein—as well as Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Yisra'el Qeysar, 'Uzi Bar'am, and Mikha Harish, who makes his consent conditional on such a demand coming from the defense establishment.

Three ministers oppose it: Shim'on Shetrit, Ya'aqov Tzur, and Ora Namir. The latter favors such a move, but does not believe it is feasible.

Two other ministers, Moshe Shahal and Shim'on Peres, refused to answer. One minister, David Liba'i, said he is not knowledgeable on the matter. Nevertheless, it is hard to see any of them voting against such a proposal if it is raised.

We could not obtain the answer of Minister Avraham Shohat. Yitzhaq Rabin is opposed to reopening the Declaration of Principles, but it is not certain that he perceives the evacuation of Hebron as falling in that category. When we asked him about it today, he replied: I am not prepared to elaborate. [end recording]

[Later in the broadcast, the announcer adds: "The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is furious at our report that most ministers are in favor of removing the settlers from the heart of Hebron." In a recorded passage, local settlement leader Elyaqim Ha'etzni states: "If they touch any settlement, including the Jewish settlement in Hebron, all of us to the last man will prevent it. Nobody will stay alone here. Not even one brick will be removed from this edifice. Let this much be clear. We will be followed in our footsteps by every Jewish patriot in Eretz Yisra'el. Indeed, all of us here will not allow them to tear us apart one by one. They will not start with Hebron, which may very well be the most precious of all our settlements."]

Knesset Majority Supports Condemnation of Massacre

TA2802200694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpts] By a large majority, the Knesset today approved the joint decision by most factions which condemns the massacre in Hebron: 93 Knesset members supported the joint statement, one opposed, and seven abstained. Joining in the statement were Labor, the Likud, Meretz, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], the National Religious Party, Tzomet, YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], Moledet, and United Torah Jewry. The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party submitted a different draft proposal which was rejected by a vast majority. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that several of the Meretz faction members did not participate in the vote while other Meretz members abstained due to their opposition to the clause in the announcement which takes exception to any generalizations or sweeping blame against certain sectors, including the settlers.

Netanyahu Addresses Knesset on Hebron Massacre

TA2802173594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1429 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Address by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu to the Knesset plenum on the 25 February Hebron massacre—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Members of the Knesset: A despicable crime was committed in Hebron last Friday [25 February]. In the same place were Abraham announced to the world the belief in one God, dozens of people were slain while praying to that same God. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image, the Bible says. In other words, a murderer should be killed, but there is no mercy, forgiveness, or redemption for bloodshed that does not distinguish between a base murderer and innocent citizens.

On behalf of my colleagues, and I believe in the name of all the members of this House, I utterly denounce this terrible act and send condolences to the families of the victims.

I urge educators throughout the political spectrum and rabbis to close ranks around the sanctity of human life and the moral use of arms which has always characterized us. Even a people fighting for its survival, such as the Jewish people, must uphold its moral standards in war.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday, all these rules were broken. Consequently, the government decided to set up a state commission of inquiry to thoroughly investigate the murder and find the truth. I would like to discuss what this committee must investigate and what should be included in its letter of appointment. I would like to tell you that a few hours ago I phoned the foreign minister, who heads the ministerial committee assigned to formulate the commission's letter of appointment, and asked him to add several points. First, we call for an investigation of all the facts and factors related to the horrendous act perpetrated in Hebron. The word factors may not be clear to the members of the House and, indeed, it does not appear in the letter of appointment as reported in the media. According to reports, the government asks the commission of inquiry to investigate and arrive at findings and conclusions with regard to the facts and circumstances pertaining to the massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I went back and looked up another commission of inquiry, the Kahn Commission, set up to probe another tragic affair, the killings in Sabra and Shatila. The letter of appointment issued to it by another government stated as follows: The government asks the commission of inquiry to investigate all the facts and factors pertaining to the horrendous acts—the exact same words we are seeking.

I would like to tell you that the word factors was added at the firm and resolute demand of then-Attorney General Mr. Yitzhaq Zamir. After all, we are not just talking about facts and circumstances; there are also factors and people responsible. I do not know who is responsible and I would not presume to say anything like that. However, when you formulated the letter of appointment—it was worded by well-known jurists whose professionalism I greatly appreciate, including two former justice ministers and the current attorney general—did you not have the letter of appointment of the Kahn Commission in front of you? Is it just a coincidence that this specific word is absent? Are there only facts and no factors? Has the whitewashing already begun? Do not put the blame on the foot soldier; in this case, Major Ilan, the commander at the Cave of the Patriarchs. If anybody is responsible, the word factors—as it pertains to responsibility—should be included. Although responsibility should not be determined at this point, it should be stated that somebody is responsible. Otherwise, what is the sense of the whole thing? Did you not foresee it?

Under the Likud government, a commission of inquiry set up to investigate a horrendous slaughter saw fit to look into the factors leading to it. Confronted with a no less horrendous massacre, the Labor government does not see fit to look into the factors.

Mr. Foreign Minister, it is not yet too late. The government can meet and amend its decision. If you want the public to perceive the mandate of the commission of inquiry as being state-like rather than of a political or partisan nature, amend the letter of appointment.

What else should the commission investigate? No doubt, it must investigate the events pertaining to the tragic murder of some 40 innocent Arabs in the Cave of the Patriarchs, but it must also probe the no less abominable slaying of over 30 Israelis—according to data in my possession, 33 Israelis were killed; not all of them were Jews, some were Druze—in the last few months. Does only the murder of Arabs, however despicable and abominable, merit a commission of inquiry, whereas the slaying of dozens of Jews and Druze—as well as hundreds of Arabs in the territories who were considered collaborators and were murdered by Arab terrorists—does not?

Mr. Speaker, we listened attentively to the speech of the prime minister, who made a series of remarks which were not to our liking. The commission of inquiry must probe the whole question of the deterioration of the security situation. These events did not take place in a vacuum. Since 13 September, when the Oslo agreement was signed, things have been happening in the field, including a surge in the number of murders. Why is this happening? It is not happening because of facts, but because of the decisions and actions of the government. For example, you allowed the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to return although you were specifically warned that they had undergone special terrorist training. You allowed them back nevertheless, thus pouring boiling oil on the blazing bonfire of terror. You pardoned dozens of wanted men, and threw them into the bonfire as well. You released hundreds of terrorists.

Now, instead of coming to your senses and seeing the situation for what it is, instead of regaining your levelheadedness and stopping this succession of capitulations and gestures, what do you do? What do you have in store for us now? What lies in store for us in the next few days is the release of yet another 800 to 1,000 terrorists; more terrorists, more boiling oil. What is worse, in the not too distant future, if we approve the process you are now trying to accelerate with all your might, you will bring into our midst another 8,000 murderers—not potential murderers as the assassin in Hebron, but certified ones.

That is why we demand to add a clause to the letter of appointment. We want and demand that the commission of inquiry investigate the serious deterioration in the security situation since the signing of the agreement with the PLO, including the murder of dozens of Israeli citizens throughout the country, as well as the murder of dozens of Arab inhabitants of the territories by Arab terrorists. I would like to add, Mr. Speaker, that if these events are not investigated now they will be probed by the next commission of inquiry which has yet to be set up.

Mr. Speaker, Judaism does not uphold punishing an entire community for the sins of one individual. We do not believe in or accept the concept of collective responsibility, and we will definitely not stigmatize the entire community of settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; a community of law-abiding people and pioneers; of

people who have for six years been subjected to a ceaseless onslaught of terror but behaved in a manner which only arouses respect and should be an example to all of us; people who drive in their cars with their children on roads where a woman five-months pregnant is slaughtered and the father of nine children is slain together with his son. These people have displayed supreme heroism, and are for the most part—and this is an understatement—law-abiding. We do not accept the current notion of mentioning them in the same breath with a handful of extremists who must be dealt with the utmost severity within the confines of the law. The latter should be dealt with, but not so the vast majority. We ought to watch over this majority and not lend a hand to harming a community of people who are the emissaries of the State of Israel and of generations of the Jewish people.

However, that is exactly what you are trying to do. In the last few days, the media has been waging a slanderous and venomous campaign. Not just the media, but also cabinet ministers have been describing the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as a hotbed of murderers. I hear talk about separation—a euphemism for uprooting the Jewish population from Hebron, Bet El, Ari'el, and 'Imanu'el—and I say: If the answer to terror in Hebron is uprooting Jews from Hebron, the solution to possible terror in Yafo is uprooting Jews from Yafo, Nazareth, 'Akko, and any other place where Jews and Arabs live side by side. There is no solution other than coexistence. Those who demand our expulsion from Hebron as a solution are doomed to flee other places as well.

Mr. Speaker, Hebron, the city of the common patriarchs of the Jewish and Arab peoples, must be the place where Jews and Arabs learn to live and to pray side by side. However, the coexistence we advocate cannot grow and develop on the basis of an unfortunate policy which forsakes the security of both Jews and Arabs. We call on the government to return to a sane, responsible policy. Only in such a policy lies the chance of curbing this horrendous bloodshed. A responsible policy will ensure that we can continue to tread this arduous and tortuous road—albeit the only one we believe in—of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews in Eretz Yisra'el.

I would like to conclude with a word to Israel's Arabs: You are citizens of this country. Through great efforts, we built a life together, a successful delicate fabric. I call on your leaders not to lend a hand to its destruction, to calm tempers, to put down the violence, and to come out against it, just as I call on my colleagues in the left wing of the House to curb the hatred and the venom. Let us argue to the point—and we do have an outstanding argument—but not by resorting to uncalled-for hatred. We have only one nation and only one state, and let us maintain both of them.

Netanyahu on Prisoner Release, Steps Against Settlers

TA2702141294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has issued an initial reaction to today's cabinet session. Netanyahu vehemently objected to the impending release of hundreds of security prisoners and demanded that the state commission of inquiry also investigate the government's responsibility for the terrorist acts perpetrated against Jews. As for the restrictions placed on the hardcore extremist settlers in the territories, this is what Binyamin Netanyahu had to say:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] If steps are called for against agitators or against people who assist or participate in acts of terrorism, then such action is legitimate; however, if the government's intention is to expand the scope of these measures to include large groups of settlers, who are the vast majority—to say the least—of the settler population, then it will constitute an abuse of authority that must not be sanctioned. Selective, strictly pinpointed action against lawbreakers is acceptable to us. [end recording]

'Ashrawi, Opposition Criticize Prisoner Release

TA0103130594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpts] More than 500 Palestinian prisoners are being released from jails in the territories and inside Israel today, with more due to be set free later this week. But local Palestinian leaders have ordered no celebrations and they have made it clear that the gesture is not enough to bring the Palestinians back to the peace talks. On this, Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [break in reception] [Dr. Hanan 'Ash..awi, broadcast in progress] ...approaching a reluctant conciliatory attitude. I mean Rabin cannot always approach issues by trying to carry out cosmetic changes and by doing too little too late. We are not looking for appearance. We are looking for serious substance, and therefore I think that moves or steps that appear to be steps of appeasement rather than drastic or genuine dealing with serious issues would not achieve results.

[Weiss] What specifically do you want Israel to do that is realistic, that could possibly bring the Palestinians back to the talks?

['Ashrawi] I think what is very realistic is to accept an international presence, not by putting limits on what is in the DOP [Declaration of Principles] and saying international civilians are unarmed, but rather by making the international presence of a serious international force that would be able to play the role of a buffer zone to observe and to monitor, to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and to change the whole atmosphere. I also think that disarming the settlers is not unrealistic at

all. It's a genuine requirement which would serve both sides, because they are also challenging the rule of law in Israel. I think beginning the removal of the settlers from the populated areas, particularly in al-Khalil and Qiryat Arba', would also show seriousness of intent and a genuine commitment to deal with these issues.

[Weiss] Other Palestinians noted that today's release is only bringing forward the release planned for later this month to mark the end of Ramadan. [end recording]

The view from the Likud is that the release of Palestinian prisoners encourages and solicits terrorist activity against Jews. Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav accuses the government of surrendering and ingratiating itself in front of Yasir 'Arafat. The Moledet party, claiming the release complicated Israel's security situation, said the government had not learned from the experience of the prisoner exchange with the Ahmad Jibril organization.

Palestinian Prisoner Release Reportedly Under Way

TA0103072594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The release of 900 Palestinian prisoners will take place today. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir. In one hour, 400 hundred prisoners will be released from the al-Zahiriyah prison. The first batch from among the 500 prisoners to be released from Qezi'ot today were released half an hour ago. Our correspondent reports that prisoners from Judaea and Samaria are being released from Qezi'ot this morning, while Gaza Strip prisoners will be released this afternoon.

Sufyan al-Zaydan, the Fatah spokesman in Gaza, says today's release of Palestinian prisoners will not bring the PLO back to the negotiating table because the number of those being released is insufficient.

Automatic Weapons of Extremist Settlers To Be Seized

TA2802165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The police minister has ordered the confiscation of the automatic weapons of extremist settlers in Judaea and Samaria, but let them keep their personal weapons, such as guns. He also ordered the police commissioner to release all the Israeli Arabs who were arrested during demonstrations in the last few days if they are not suspected of having hit policemen or damaged property.

Police To Seize All Kakh Weapons in Qiryat Arba'

TA2802133394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The police have decided to confiscate all weapons possessed by Kakh activists and others associated with them in Qiryat Arba'. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the hunt for four Kakh fugitives continues. The police broke into several Kakh-owned homes in Qiryat Arba' yesterday, but their inhabitants were not there.

Military Officer Describes Hebron Gun's Capabilities

NC2502153994 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 25 (AFP)—A well-trained man armed with an Israeli Galil assault rifle can kill more than 100 people in a closed space within minutes, a senior military officer told AFP.

The officer said a clip for the Galil 5.56 mm assault rifle clip holds 35 bullets.

"If a man is properly trained, he can change a clip in a few seconds," he said.

The Galil, brought into service at the end of the 1970's, is considered heavy and less accurate than the M-16 and used only by tank units now.

"With a gun like that in a closed space you can kill more than 100 people."

It weighs 3.75 kilos and has a theoretically ability to fire 750 bullets a minute.

The army said a sole killer, 35-year-old Barukh Goldstein, opened fire in a packed Hebron mosque at dawn on Friday. Palestinian doctors said 53 people died and dozens were wounded in the carnage.

However several Palestinian witnesses said up to five Jewish settlers aided the American-born doctor with links to the anti-Arab Kach movement. He either turned the gun on himself or was shot by someone else, military officials said.

Yet another Palestinian who said he was in the mosque told Israeli television that Goldstein was alone and re-loaded his rifle with at least three of four or five bullet clips he carried.

Police announced that a ballistics test would be carried out to verify if all the bullets in the mosque came from the same gun. Police said they were contacting witnesses to take their testimony.

Hebron Massacre Inquiry Commission Members Named

TA2802141994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Justice Me'ir Shamgar, president of the Supreme Court, has appointed the members of the state commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre, which will convene next week. The commission will be headed by Justice Shamgar, and its members are Nazareth District

Court Judge 'Abd-al Rahman Zu'bi, Open University President Menahem Ya'ari, Supreme Court Justice Eli'ezer Goldberg, and former Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports.

Condolence Message Published in Arab Papers

TA2802123094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 94 p A10

[ITIM report]

[Text] Along with the announcement of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, the main Palestinian dailies—AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR—yesterday carried a message of condolences from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Government of Israel.

The message, which was published on the front page, said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the cabinet members share in the mourning of the Palestinian people and express their sorrow at the killing of innocent people.

Arrangement for Compensation to Victims Concluded

TA0103093194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] According to the arrangement concluded between the Finance and the Labor and Social Welfare Ministries regarding compensation to the families of the Hebron massacre victims, the total amount of funds to be paid will amount to dozens of millions of shekels. This is reported by our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon. The payment will be a one-time compensation to the families of the dead and the wounded. During the first stage, each family who lost one of its members will receive an advance payment of 5,000 shekels. Ora Namir, labor and social welfare minister, says this is a humanitarian step. National Insurance Institute Chairman Yosi Tamir notes that this move is not intended to set a precedent.

High State of Alert Reported North of Jerusalem

TA0103092694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Wide-ranging security measures have been taken around the country for fear of retaliatory terrorist attacks in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources warned the secretariats of settlements belonging to the Mate Binyamin Regional Council [between Jerusalem and Ramallah] of terrorist plans to perpetrate a spectacular attack against one or more of the settlements there. A very high state of alert was declared in the Mate Binyamin settlements, and the IDF has dramatically beefed up its forces in the region.

A particularly sharp pamphlet published yesterday by the Palestinian command in the territories, which includes PLO representatives, said: "The Zionist enemy must be aware that no crime goes unavenged. Those who spill the blood of our people will not go unscathed. We will set the ground under the feet of the Nazi occupiers on fire."

The Palestinian leadership in the territories has renewed the activities of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, in cooperation with Fatah, and called for the resumption of intifadah activities, including violence against IDF forces and settlers, in order to cause as many casualties and as much damage to property as possible. As will be recalled, the command was disbanded after the signing of the Washington agreement in September, but it was reestablished on Sunday.

Sources in the territories noted that the command was reestablished with the cooperation of Fatah representatives and that its demands are a signal to 'Arafat that conducting negotiations does not mean control on the ground. The sources said that as a result of the erosion in 'Arafat's status, he has no choice but to radicalize his positions and to accept the demands of the leadership in the territories. [passage omitted]

IDF Kills Arab Youth During Riot in Gaza

TA2702120594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Excerpt] In a massive riot in the al-Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza, a 17-year-old Palestinian was killed. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that he was shot by soldiers, who also injured 20 other Palestinians. They were taken for treatment in local hospitals.

In the Jordan Rift Valley, the hunt continues for the terrorist who this morning entered a hothouse in Gitit and fired at one of the workers, but caused no damage. In Rafah, a youth was badly injured by soldiers after he threw rocks at them.

In the Bedouin village of Tel Sheva' in the Negev, 10 people were injured in a violent clash between the police and demonstrators protesting the Hebron killings. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the police detained six of the demonstrators. The policemen were pelted with rocks and had to use tear gas to disperse the demonstrating Bedouin. Riots also took place in the villages of Kusayfah, 'Aro'er, and Laggiyah.

In al-Tirah in the triangle, a police officer was stabbed in the back a short while ago. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that he was taken to the Me'ir Hospital. [passage omitted]

Two Arabs Killed, 17 Wounded in Territories

TA2802162694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Two Arabs were killed in the territories today in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, one in

Nabulus and another in Hebron. Another 17 Arabs were wounded: three were seriously wounded in Nabulus, one was moderately injured in the village of Tuqu', and 13 were wounded in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a riot occurred near the Cave of the Patriarchs, and an IDF soldier was lightly wounded by a stone.

Disturbances continue in East Jerusalem, particularly in Shu'fat and in Al-Tur. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the rioters set tires on fire and threw stones at Border Police units. In East Jerusalem's central bus station, a burning object was thrown at an empty bus and the driver's seat was lightly damaged.

Some 1,500 people marched in Haifa for the second day in a mourning procession over the massacre in Hebron. They marched from Wadi Nisnas to the municipality building. One of the speakers was Haifa Mayor 'Amram Mitzna'. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that a stone was thrown at a police patrol car during the procession, but nobody was hurt. A 14-year-old boy who threw the stone was detained for questioning.

Further on Rioting Additional Arrests, Casualties

TA2802202094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Dani Gur-Arye]

[Excerpts] Once again today, Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops on both sides of the Green Line. Once again, casualties and arrests.

In the territories residents defied the curfew in effect almost everywhere in the West Bank and Gaza, blocking roads, burning tires, and throwing stones. The most severe incident took place in Salfit, near Tulkarm, where some 60 residents surrounded an Army outpost, showering it with stones, bottles, and petrol bombs. Soldiers emerged on foot to disperse the demonstrators. They opened fire when one of the youths brandished a knife. Five demonstrators were wounded, two seriously. [passage omitted]

More troubling for the authorities are the ongoing demonstrations in Arab communities within the Green Line. The focus of the unrest shifted to Galilee today, where some 50 Israeli Arabs were arrested. In Nazareth youths blocked the main road and threw stones at the bank, the post office, and government offices. Police initially refrained from entering the city in large numbers, but moved in early in the afternoon to break up the demonstrations. Thirty three people were arrested in the city. There were also large demonstrations in Kafr Kana and Baqa al-Gharbiyah.

In East Jerusalem, two policemen and eight Palestinians were wounded in clashes today.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 28 February adds that "a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car at the Armon Hanetziv neighborhood this evening. The car was not damaged. A rented car was set on fire at Wadi al-Jawz in East Jerusalem, and a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Border Police vehicle in the Old City of Jerusalem, but the vehicle was not damaged. There were no casualties in these three incidents.

["In the center of Hebron, several shots were directed at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol not far from Gross Square. There were no casualties. The patrol soldiers returned fire and began searches."

[Also, "six masked people were caught in the village of Abu-Dis in East Jerusalem; two youths who threw Molotov cocktails at the security forces in Khan Yunus were detained; and five youths who were on their way to committing arson were caught at Wadi al-Jawz in East Jerusalem."]

Settlement Council To Review 'Attitude' Toward Kakh

TA2802204994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which convened today to discuss the security situation has announced its objection to the expressions of joy over the murder in Hebron. This is included in a series of decisions adopted by the heads of the council during their meeting. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that it was further decided that in the future the council will hold an extensive discussion about the attitude toward the Kakh movement. The council has also decided to launch an information campaign within the settlements so as to curb the activities of Kakh members. The first in a series of decisions made by the council expresses deep sorrow and shock about the murder in Hebron. The council heads also categorically condemn any harm inflicted on innocent people, share in the grief of the victims' families, and repudiate the expressions of joy regarding the murder.

The other decisions adopted by the council takes a negative view of the measures the government adopted yesterday.

Police Minister Against Dismantling Settlement

TA0103165194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the police are still hunting for four Kakh activists on the list of five to be placed in administrative detention. Speaking at a news conference today, the minister says he opposes the idea of dismantling the Jewish community in Hebron and the settlement of Qiryat Arba'. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The police minister said members of the force's Serious Crime Unit are still searching for four Kakh activists on the list of five that will be placed in administrative detention, and he expressed confidence that they will be found soon. He said some

Kakh activists will be totally disarmed, and others will only have their automatic weapons taken away. He called the crack down on the extreme right an extraordinary act for a democratic country. However, he stressed that Kakh has less than 100 members and Kahana Hay even less, and he does not believe they have large numbers of sympathizers.

Shahal said he opposes the dismantling of the Jewish community in Hebron and the settlement of Qiryat Arba', because this would mean a major change in the Declaration of Principles. The major problem, he said, remains ensuring the security of Israelis.

[Shahal] We didn't have any guarantee from the Palestinians that they are going to prevent any kind of terror or violence. Still, we are optimistic enough to go on with the process. So, there is no need to come after this act, horrible as it was, and to change an agreement between the Palestinians and Israel. They have our guarantee that the Israeli Government will prevent any kind of terror or violent act, and we are doing more than any other country that I know of with all of our ability to do so. There is no question about it.

[Weiss] The police minister predicted that the Palestinian police force will remain somewhere between 7,000 and 9,000 strong, and will not be significantly increased because of the massacre. [end recording]

Minister To Demand U.S. Desist From Warning Tourists

TA0103111994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am says he will demand of the U.S. Embassy in Israel that it stop warning U.S. tourists to avoid visits to Nazareth and other cities within the Green Line because of the security situation. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that according to Bar'am, tours to Nazareth pose no danger whatsoever.

Commentary Considers Top IDF Appointments

TA0103145394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "On Appointments to the Next General Staff"]

[Text] The military advocate general's report on the Ze'elim B accident freed the bottleneck on appointments in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] top ranks. The reason, in fact the excuse, for artificially holding up appointments of new generals to the General Staff has been removed. But things are not as simple as they may appear to outsiders. When the cabinet approved extending the chief of staff's term by another year, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq announced that he intends to complete his term on 1 January, 1995, which leaves him another 10 months in office.

That means that Baraq is about to decide months prior to his retirement on the appointment of most of the generals in the General Staff of his successor, who is already waiting for the job. Had that been done a year or two ago, it could have passed. The general practice is that the chief of staff is allowed to chose some of the generals he wants on his team. This time, the next chief of staff will not be given the opportunity to influence many key appointments. The makeup of his General Staff will be decided now for many years to come.

The next chief of staff will most likely by Major General Amnon Shahaq, who is currently the preferred candidate of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. Shahaq should have no less impact on the character of the future IDF top brass than Baraq. The defense minister should hold consultations on that also with the person who will be chief of staff in another 10 months.

The extended delay in making the appointments due to the Ze'elim accident was superfluous. The more prolonged the military advocate general's investigation became the more deferring the round of appointments became a burden. The mistake was not in the extended terms of the current generals, but in the link Baraq and Rabin formed between the Ze'elim accident and the appointment of new generals who have nothing to do with the accident. The problem is that even now that link has not been totally severed.

The chief of staff was right in not appointing Major General 'Amiram Levin to a senior post immediately after receiving an administrative reprimand. That was why it was suggested that in the first stage there would only be a small round of appointments. But there could have been "a small round" a long time ago, before the military advocate general's findings were presented. The current round will apparently include appointments to the Central Command, the National Defense College, and field commands. If Baraq wants to appoint 'Amiram Levin to the Central Command he has to put off the change of guard at that command. The significance of the "small round" is that once again there will be a hold up in appointments and once again officers who had nothing to do with the Ze'elim affair have been affected.

Shortening the chief of staff's final year ends the chances that a different senior officer will become deputy chief of staff before a decision is made on who will succeed Baraq. In recent weeks, Baraq tried to persuade Shahaq to take a year off for rest or study, thereby enabling another officer to be tried out in the post. Shahaq was not excited about the suggestion but left it up to the defense minister to decide. The latter, however, does not tend to make drastic decisions on such personal issues, and since Shahaq did not request taking time off for studies, the situation has remained unchanged.

That plan has now been removed from the agenda since there is no point in appointing a chief of the Operations Branch and deputy chief of staff for only nine months. Appointment of a Operations Branch chief must be

made for several years, especially since that general will also be the next deputy chief of staff.

Chief of Staff Baraq has not had too much luck with appointments. Several senior appointments during his term were made without his approval (such as the appointment of Yitzhaq Mordekhay as commander of the Northern Command). Other appointments are not considered a success.

In the coming 10 months not only will the next chief of staff be appointed, but the three regional commanders, the deputy chief of staff, head of the Intelligence Branch, and possibly other senior officers will be decided. Two veteran generals will necessarily be disappointed. Waiting on the sidelines is a new generation of brigadier generals, some very good and some less so.

The next General Staff must have not only talented, highly professional officers with a strategic-political outlook; we must also make sure it is truly balanced. Reserve General Yisra'el Tal, who has been claiming for some time that we must make doubly sure that the IDF top echelon should always include commanders with experience in managing complex formations, who would naturally come from the Armored Corps, is right. The person who has to supervise that balancing act is the defense minister, who must consider the overall appointments picture.

King Addresses House on Hebron 'Crime,' Peace

JN2702073594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Feb 94

["Text" of speech by King Husayn at Ramadan fast-breaking banquet for the members of the House of Representatives and the religious judges of the East and West Bank in Amman on 26 February—recording]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Good evening, and many happy returns. Now that the House of Representatives has begun to exercise its responsibilities; and as your brother, who has had the honor of serving with the sons of this country for more than 40 years, I found that I have to meet my brothers to talk about some of our concerns and affairs. We want to talk in a fraternal way within this family to which we all belong out of our concern to carry out our duties in a satisfactory way. I hope that we all seek God's satisfaction and ask Him to guide us and grant us success.

When we prepared for this meeting in this blessed month and on this night, we did not imagine that it would take place in the wake of one of the ugliest crimes witnessed by the world. This crime was perpetrated yesterday morning in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque when a large number of our kinsfolk, brothers, and beloved ones were martyred and others more were wounded. Those who died on Friday morning in the Ibrahimi Mosque in this blessed month will go to heaven with the chaste righteous martyrs. Everyone hopes he will become a martyr for the sake of God. Only God knows when a person will die.

We were, still are, and will continue to support our kinsfolk and brothers in Hebron, Jerusalem, and in every part of the occupied Arab territory. I cannot express in words the endurance of the kinsfolk there under occupation. They are an example for people in terms of their patience, steadfastness, and adherence to their land and rights. I also reiterate that we will continue to do the impossible to have them regain all their rights on their national soil. We have no other objective or goal other than a clear conscience and the satisfaction of Almighty God.

We have done all we can in the face of this tragedy in terms of what we can offer and our available capabilities.

We sympathize with every mother and father who lost a martyr, with every brother who lost his brother, with every human being in Hebron, with those injured, and with our kinsfolk.

Once again I say—and this is not the first time, though one always hopes it is the last—that we do not have any objective and we do not harbor ambitions other than to see the kinsfolk masters of their land.

Faced with what has happened, we are going to do our best to push the responsible quarters in Israel to expose their real faces. Will they shoulder their responsibilities toward what happened and take measures that would at least show that all efforts made toward peace were or were not right?

The story did not begin with this massacre and heinous crime. Before this crime there was the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the aggression against the sacred shrines, including the Ibrahimi Mosque, and the aggression against the Christian holy places. You remember that we have been calling for religious jurisdiction, and that sovereignty on all sacred places is for Almighty God. As for the Islamic holy places, we try to gather around us the support of all brothers in the Islamic world to guarantee that what happened will not recur in the future. What has taken place is enough to prove that these people do not shoulder their responsibilities and cannot be asked to assume responsibility for the holy places of those who believe in God.

The issue then requires that we think about a new satisfactory situation in which the Islamic world will shoulder, with us, its responsibilities. There were talks about interfaith dialogue with regard to the holy places. Sovereignty is for Almighty God. Each side will then take care of its holy places regardless of the political situation or the possible and impossible solutions. We will continue to call for all this and work toward materializing this call on the ground. We hope the time will come when believers in God will compete for worshipping, fearing, and respecting God in the holy places.

With regard to the measures that should be taken at this stage, we think and work, in addition to all that you were acquainted with, to adopt a stand that will have positive effects. Before and after everything, we think of our kinsfolk, brothers, and beloved ones.

I heard some people saying that we should withdraw from the negotiations and others saying that we have no right to discuss such matters under these circumstances. (?This is) correct. I am talking to you as a person in whom, I believe, you have confidence, and through you I am addressing the entire Jordanian community. I am talking to you as a person who has confidence and who also trusts you all. I hope that all my brothers will give us the opportunity as well as the support through awareness, honesty, sincerity, and determination to work to enable us to remain steadfast in the face of the continuous and difficult pressures coming from all directions.

My wish is for us to enjoy a measure of awareness, and to have the resolve and determination to always take manly stands, as we did in the past, to demonstrate that we are unwilling to bow to anybody other than Almighty God. We could face difficulties and pressures. This has been our story from the outset. I would like to see all psychologically prepared when such an eventuality materializes. This is important if everybody is to extend his share of support, and if we, along with you, God willing, are to stand with our heads held high, and if the outcome is to be to our liking.

In their conduct toward us, some in this world always have in mind the Israeli public opinion, the public opinion here or there, as if we do not have a public opinion. We would like to tell them that we do have a public opinion, that we have a lively and enlightened people, and that we have the resolve and ability to hold out, stand fast, move forward, and shoulder responsibilities jointly and unequivocally with regard to all issues and topics. We have the ability to control our emotions by exercising our mental faculties. We are able to chart the outlines of our future policies, and to walk our path in complete unison, demonstrating joint understanding and cooperation. We might differ on some interpretations or views. However, when joint interests, which are of greater importance than all issues, are at stake, we remain cohesive under all circumstances and conditions. Nonetheless, and to be frank, I will not hesitate to take a certain step in response to the public opinion if such a step is found to be appropriate. I believe that I am aware of the sentiments of the good people from whom I emerged and to whom I belong. All that I ask of you is for you to be with your homeland and with this march, always and ever.

I will be frank with you, and tell you about all that needs to be communicated outside the confines of official agencies.

Of course you, in the House of Representatives, have the right to acquaint yourselves with everything and to participate in drawing up the path for the present and future. The issue of withdrawing or not withdrawing is something we decide on the basis of our convictions, and also within the framework of cooperation and coordination with our brothers in the Arab world.

If we continue, there will be a price and a benefit which we hope will be for our kinsfolk and brothers in the occupied territories in the first place. If we withdraw for consultation, or if we withdraw for good, this should be in the interest of our cause and our generations both at present and in the future. But to be absorbed in details and to spread this talk beyond the House of Representatives, I think will not serve our interest at this stage.

As for the House and its performance so far, and the impression I received when this House was elected—which is the second parliament since our resumption of democratic life in this country—and through long experience, in fact my feeling is that through your election the citizens and voters reflected the ambitions, hopes, and awareness they have. The citizen wants you to work, to work more, and to give the maximum you can in a reasonable, enlightened, and honest manner.

My hope has been, is still, and will continue to be that you will continue and try to make up for the past. Much time passed in terms of achievements that could have been made, in terms of the stage and how delicate and difficult it is, in terms of laws that need rectification and adoption, in terms of work, and in terms of issues that need to be presented and discussed.

I urged the government, urged the House—represented by its speaker and the brothers when I met them—and urged the brothers in the Senate to maintain coordination so that matters will be tackled efficiently and with responsibility. Ultimately, people will judge us in light of our achievements.

As a brother, rather than from the position of a person with responsibilities, I would like to appeal to you all to rise above minor issues and personal conflicts. I also appeal to you not to waste time on issues that would tarnish your image, our image, Jordan's image, or the march.

Let us stand well with each other and let us work in the interest of the country. Each one of us, particularly you, should work toward laying the foundations for new parliamentary traditions and norms so that the bases will be stronger than before and so that the coming generations will continue to walk on a clear path. Even practically, I do not believe that the situation is sound. In every House session, the whole cabinet should be present. If the cabinet spends two days with the House and one day with the Senate, and if it holds its meetings in two days, how many days will be left for the cabinet to tackle the citizens' issues? I believe that if the concerned ministers attend the House session this will be sufficient. Of course, in important issues the entire cabinet must be there.

Through dialogue, you can discuss the situation so that you can invest our potentials, resources, and time in a better way. The official media are not carrying out their role. We want our brothers to move in this regard. The media are considered state media, but they are lost and absent in most cases. Either the media should be a state media that advocate the state policy or we should find another formula.

I will not specify, but there are laws that are of great importance. Once again, when these laws are presented to you they are presented because there is a conviction that they are feasible and beneficial to the citizen and needy citizen, and they are presented to organize this country and the relations of its people, and so that its resources are not wasted or exhausted. These laws would be beneficial for our people, family, and march regardless of whether they were proposed by this or that world quarter .

There are other issues that you will discuss and on which you will make the appropriate decision. I believe we should not be too hasty in some fields so that we will not suffer a setback. Do we follow the right measures when we plan for the future in Amman or elsewhere? Do we start with the ideal thing that should be realized one day and make sure not to make mistakes to avoid negative results, God forbid?

I had in mind, and I proposed to my brothers that there should be coordination, contacts, explanation, and discussion concerning any draft law and all stages through which it passes so that the outcome and result will be the

ideal that we and everyone of us seeks in this country. I believe that so far this mechanism is not available in a satisfactory and comfortable manner. I pray for Almighty God's help so that this will be the natural situation in the future.

What is painful to me more than anything else is to use my right and return some laws, as happened several times, out of my concern for the homeland and the people. I do not want to exercise this right so spare me, yourselves, the Senate, all brothers, and the homeland this effort through cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of power, and through studying everything with due attention until eventually the desired situation is reached.

I do not believe that any of us is outbidding others, or likes to be called a person engaged in oneupmanship. The country is ours, and what is at stake is the destiny of future generations. Hence, God willing, each of us will be engaged day and night in some sort of soul-searching. Each of us must do all he can to achieve our objectives and goals.

The circumstances are tough, and the suffering is continuing. Pressures on us continue from all directions. However, we must confront them with discipline, patience, resolve, and determination. Even our reactions to what we are experiencing, and to our past experiences must be studied and calculated to yield a positive outcome. People can express their feelings in lots of ways. However, we must underscore the positive aspect in this.

A question is posed on whether a strike, for example, with due respect to the views of brothers in this regard, would promote, even in the least, the cause of our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territories, and in Hebron in particular at present. If, God forbid, we inflame people's sentiments and a guest of ours, regardless of where he came from on this globe, is encroached on, would such a thing bring us honor, given that these people are our guests? Should we degrade ourselves, God forbid, to the level reached by the enemies, who are behaving unreasonably and unacceptably, when nothing escapes the attention of the world community, or should we think of alternatives? Why should we bring life in Amman, other cities, or villages to a standstill for a single day? This would prevent people from selling their goods, or leading a normal life. If we were to set aside part of that day's earnings and donate it humbly to our brethren, would this not be a better move?

It would be preferable, brothers, if each of us thinks day and night of all he can do to ensure the availability of resources that could promote the interests of both the homeland and the march.

We have been living under difficult circumstances over the past four years. Instead of switching on all lights, we could switch on some of them; and instead driving too many cars, we could share a car with a brother or friend. The objective is to save some energy. If we save a few things here and there, we could have something that would help us face any possibility.

One of the issues that was discussed for a long time was the issue of medical care, food, medicine. We have been looking into this subject over the past years. What happens in others parts of the world could also happen here. Consequently, we should issue instructions and attempt to unify and organize departments to enable them deal with this situation.

It is known that some industrial countries are not concerned about exporting goods that are below the standards used in the industrial countries themselves. This needs our concern and control. We are not the first, nor will we be the last country to make mistakes. If these mistakes are detected and rectified, and if the responsible side is the party which discovered this situation and adopted a stand—as happened here—then this is good. However, let us look at the broader picture. How many people know that according to international reports we have no less than 7,000 drug addicts? We remain silent on these matters either out of shame or because we are incapable of dealing with it. We must begin to tackle this problem correctly whether through firm measures regarding trafficking or traffickers or through setting up specialized centers to treat and cure addicts.

But to remain shy and silent, I believe this is a mistake we commit against ourselves and our children—many of whom went abroad for study and returned with these or other problems.

We are in need of industry, development, and everything. There is a subject I have repeatedly raised with our brothers, including the deputies from the al-Fuhays area, and they are trying. Do you not see the billowing smoke which contains cement dust. [reference here is to the cement factories in al-Fuhays]

My granddaughter and all my sons from 'Abdallah to this little Jumanah, suffer from asthma. For years, we have been saying that someone should study this situation. There are human beings around this site. This does not mean that I am pushing you to decide something now, but it is time to think about our people. May be because I am concerned and I personally suffered, otherwise my voice would have been lower than the others, but this is something illogical.

Our water and treatment of it, and ensuring that poisons from the factories do not reach the dams and contaminate the water there. Should I or you be the one to raise these issues? Should I or you be the one to tackle it in a calm and objective discussion? Likewise, there are many other issues that I think we have to handle? But to concentrate on trivial things is not good for any of my brothers or for the homeland. Wasting time—and it seems lately we have been wasting much time, God help us—should stop. If you have another opinion, then we should seek the judgment of the people. God willing, they will be the judge of whether we are doing what we should in the best possible manner.

Our country is good and generous. It is a rock in the face of enemies. Our country is full of good things. What pains me most is to see continuous attempts to harm and undermine all its achievements.

Nobody mentions good accomplishments. However, we rummage around for things to brand as mistakes. If what is found to be a mistake is really significant, that would be most welcome. Nonetheless, it seems that we are headed for frustration to frustrate both ourselves and people. Why is this? This must not be the case.

Let is recall the starting point, when we chose to revive democratic and parliamentary traditions and when circumstances made this revival possible. I would like to say that our decision in this regard was not the outcome of popular pressure from any party whatsoever. Rather, this revival of democratic and parliamentary traditions was the outcome of a decision we made and a wish we had. We want democracy to be a trust to bequeath to our future generations so they may carry, safeguard, and protect it. We wanted this country to be an example and model to others.

Many people are making allegations in this regard. This must not be the case. We should not remain silent over this. In the past, similar allegations were made. The late Abu-'Adnan [Bahjat] al-Talhuni [former Senate member] was with me at this Court when the Army Command was Arabized. Then, we were approached only after the people had realized that the accomplishment had been made, and that those whose departure was ordered had already left the country. However, afterward, we heard of heroes who drew up schemes and carried out certain feats in this regard. Abu-Shakir [Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir] is aware of this. Nobody approached us then. There have been numerous recurrences of this.

We embrace democracy within our hearts and souls. We want it to succeed. We want to set an example and a model of shura to others. We want Arab individuals to live and realize that they are of value, that they are human beings, just like other human beings. We want this march to achieve its purposes and objectives. We are bound to succeed. So, help us all so we may succeed. In other words, let us all cooperate to render the march a success.

As for the issues pertaining to inter-Arab meetings, inter-Arab cooperation, and the demands for holding an Arab summit, I would like to say that we have always been at the forefront of those demanding such a summit, and we will continue to be so.

I have never considered any difference with any brother here or in any other place a personal matter that will leave any trace. We might have differences of interpretation sometimes. I never took the insults which even reached plotting to kill as personal. Even the insults, vilifications, and digging up the past I never took as personal. This is because a man in this position and with such responsibilities must be above all these things. I sincerely and honestly mean what I am saying. This is our situation, our life, and our path. We must not continue to speak about the Intelligence, the Security, and the Army. I reiterate what many people have reiterated: Had it not been for the Intelligence, the Security, and the Army we would not have the opportunity to live such a life. The Intelligence is not against the citizens of this country; it is to protect the country against deep-rooted and strong organizations that have huge potentials in the most serious positions in the Arab homeland. We as well as the Army—our officers and soldiers who are protecting long fronts against dangers and challenges to maintain the security of the country and who are deployed throughout the world—praise be to God, are appreciated and respected by people. Instead of deploying foreign forces here and there in our Arab territory, we are assuming this role to prevent evil among people in Europe and elsewhere with a high degree of efficiency, capability, and honesty.

Our youths are in Yemen now in an attempt to consolidate the pillars of the accord on which all the sons of Yemen were unanimous. We had the honor to welcome them here in Amman, Amman of the Arabs, the capital of accord and reconciliation. Our youths from the Armed Forces are there in Yemen to help implement the accord and pledge document and to tackle a matter inflicted on our kinsfolk and brothers. Our duty as Arabs is to resolve our problems and to support each other under difficult circumstances and in the face of challenges.

People, this homeland deserves more. May God grant us success and guide us on the right path. I have great hope in you. Almighty God will guide our march and grant us success. Greetings to you all. God's peace. mercy, and blessings be upon you.

PSP Issues Statement Condemning Hebron Massacre

NC2602073694 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party; date not given]

[Text] The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, a flagrant massacre, is a message to Arabs and Muslims and a new mark of shame on the forehead of Zionism, which has been absolved by international public opinion through the United Nations of the accusation of racism. Therefore, we ask the Zionists what they would describe as their law and regulations, considering what happened in the Ibrahimi Mosque today, when a Zionist opened fire on a group of worshipers praying piously to God. In moments, they were transferred into martyrs in the name of God. The ground of the Mosque was turned into a lake of the blood of scores of martyrs and hundreds of wounded, within sight of the army which was guarding the place and keeping the peace. Tomorrow, they will claim that a demented person committed the crime or that it is a revenge operation. They will pretend to condemn and denounce it.

The PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] has sent a cable to the United Nations, the Socialist International, the Arab League, and all other international organizations condemning this ugly crime and demanding that a stance be taken regarding it. It would like to make the following remarks:

1. This crime committed by a Zionist settler is not an individual act. It represents a racist and extremist way of thinking and behaving opposed to everything that is Arab. This proves the racist nature of the Israeli culture, which they teach their children and citizens and present as an example to the region under the banner of the future Israeli peace.

2. What is the use of reaching agreements with the Israelis while Israel presents new evidence daily on its continuing policy to terrorize the Arabs in Palestine and kick them out of their land? We wonder about the usefulness of the Oslo agreement and the subsequent agreements, and about how serious the two cosponsors are about securing peace in the Middle East.

3. We ask the United States and International Security Council in particular about the usefulness of repealing the resolution equating Zionism with racism when Israel provides daily evidence of its extremist racism and deep-rooted fascism.

4. We ask PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat why he is in a hurry to skip stages. We ask him whether he is now convinced that unilateral solutions are no good for the Palestinian people, since they only allow Israeli infiltration into the Arab ranks and undermine Arab decisiveness. Such solutions do not constitute progress toward a just peace that secures for the Palestinian people their simplest rights.

5. We affirm to Israel that the blood which flowed at dawn today on this Ramadan morning will permeate the Arab spirit and teach each Arab that the Zionists are deadly enemies.

The masses will avenge you, o martyrs of the mosque, o martyrs of Palestine and Arabism.

Further Reports on Zuq Mikha'il Church Bombing

Al-Hirawi Addresses Funeral of Victims

NC2802114694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Zuq Mikha'il has bid a last farewell to its victims in a mass funeral held at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in that town. The holy communion was chaired by Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, assisted by a group of patriarchs and priests. President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his wife attended the mass. The prime minister was represented by Minister Hagop Demerdjian and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri was represented by Deputy Rashid al-Khazin. A large number of ministers, deputies, and key figures also attended.

In his homily, Patriarch Sfayr said: Some say that such crimes happen in the best of countries, but this is not satisfactory. There they capture the culprits, who then receive the punishment they deserve. Here however, the perpetrators remain unknown, either due to impotence or willingness to keep people in the dark; both amount to the same thing. These two reasons do not exempt the state from its responsibility for finding the culprits; they do not alleviate the obsessions and fears; and they do not insure safety for citizens. The Maronite patriarch urged a state that applies right and justice and treats all equally.

President al-Hirawi said in a speech: I came to this church to accept condolences in the name of the whole country, and to say that for thousands of years we have been destined to stand fast, from Wadi Qannubin to the cedar-clad mountains, to any spot in this sacred land. He added: I came to this church to say, in front of Your Beatitude, the other priests, and the representative of the Pope that we will remain faithful to this pledge, standing fast in Lebanon.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1010 GMT on 28 February adds: "President al-Hirawi said: We will remain faithful to the pledge, and the hands that encroach upon Lebanon will be cut off. Tendentious people have no place among us. When peace began its march, they began their shameful acts."]

PSP Urges Investigations

NC2802160894 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party on 28 February]

[Text] The PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] denounces the criminal bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il, condemns the perpetrators, offers its heartfelt condolences to the victims' families, and wishes a quick recovery for the wounded. It wishes to put the following points on record:

First, the crime comes in the context of a scheme seeking to undermine the process of security and national accord which has made great progress with Syrian assistance. It aims to involve the country in a new cycle of violence, keep the Lebanese arena open to those who wish to exploit it in order to pressure and weaken Lebanon, throw Syria's role in Lebanon into confusion, and undermine the two countries' relationship. The crime comes in the wake of the bombing of the Phalangist Party headquarters in al-Sayfi and several other similar operations. A number of suspects were arrested after these operations, which proves that the same groups are responsible for all these crimes. Consequently, we ask the state: What point has the investigation into the al-Sayfi bombing reached? Would it not have been possible to halt all these assaults on Lebanon and these new crimes against the Lebanese people if the Lebanese security departments had succeeded in apprehending the al-Sayfi culprits? What point has the interrogation of the pro-Israeli ring reached? Some of this ring's leaders were uncovered, arrested, and accused of planning assassinations of Lebanese officials and the bombing of various places.

We demand increased focus on these investigations and urge that all information that thus comes to light be made public. We all urge that the severest penalties, up to execution, be inflicted on the suspects. We call for measures to extradite Ghassan Tuma, the most prominent fugitive suspect linked to the aforementioned operations.

Second, the PSP warned earlier of the consequences of having several diverse official security agencies that have no coordination whatsoever with each other. Indeed, some of their actions undermine the efforts seeking to maintain security, prevent infiltrations, or uncover criminals, particularly the perpetrators of crimes against the state's security. We reemphasize our call to reexamine this affair. We urge that this be done from the perspective of supreme national interest. If it is unavoidable to have all these separate agencies, at least let them be placed under a unified command and let matters follow their proper course.

Third, it is clear that a single political-security operations room is making plans, implementing them, and trying to exploit the results. In the context of sectarian sedition and to cause greater rifts among the Lebanese people, some forces are now raising their heads and pretending to be concerned about the Christians' welfare and future. These forces already stand convicted of formerly involving the Christians in strife, causing their displacement from their homes, and forcing them to make suicidal choices that have cost them and cost Lebanon dearly. They now exploit any political or security incident to pressure, intimidate, and incite them, heighten their frustration, and then call for self-isolation and demand special guarantees. They try to do this just when all the Lebanese people are unanimous in their opinion that such crimes are directed against them all and against Lebanon's national unity and future.

Hence, efforts must be made to isolate and excise this pro-Israeli tendency from Lebanon's national body and prevent it from achieving its aims.

Fourth, in such circumstances, just as in our daily life, the media play a vital role. Some of them are part of the above-mentioned operations room and are consequently incapable of exercising the necessary self-censorship and halting the dangerous sectarian incitements so evident in their news and other programs. We urge the state to act promptly and pass a law organizing the audiovisual media. This law will lay down restrictions and prevent the use of media for such a purpose or other purposes that threaten national unity and national and social morality.

Ja'ja' Blames Government

NC2802212194 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Beirut, Feb 28 (AFP)—The head of a former Christian militia said Monday [28 February] the Lebanese government was to blame for a bomb attack which killed nine worshipers in a church north of Beirut, dismissing claims that Israel was responsible.

"Even if there is an external plot it is the duty of the state to protect its citizens," said Samir Ja'ja' of the disbanded Lebanese Forces, at a press conference at his fortified home in Ghidras, north of the capital.

"The Lebanese government is responsible for this crime," he said, referring to Sunday's bomb attack in Our Lady of Deliverance Church, in which 55 people were also injured.

"The Lebanese people have been greatly deceived because they have realised that the security the authorities promised to restore is still a mirage," Ja'ja' added.

Information Minister Michel Samahah and several other Lebanese officials blamed Israel for the bombing and linked the blast to Friday's massacre of 52 Palestinian worshipers in Hebron on the West Bank.

"By blaming external factions these officials are trying to cover up for their own impotence," Ja'ja' said, stressing that the authorities had no tangible lead on which to base their accusations.

Displaced Persons Minister Walid Junblatt said Monday he feared a wave of attacks against places of worship in Lebanon by supporters of partition backed by Israel.

The Druze leader, who heads the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), called for "radical steps against those who undermine our security."

He rejected claims of a link between the church bombing and the Hebron massacre, saying the theory was "unconvincing" and Israeli agents were "well known in Lebanon."

Prosecutor Tarabay Rahmah said on Sunday that a suspect had been arrested in connection with the blast, but he had been seized days before it happened.

The blast was the second against Christian targets since a December bomb attack on the right-wing Phalange Party headquarters killed three people and wounded 100.

Relatives of the victims held a mass funeral in the church on Monday.

President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, pledged in a telephone call to his Lebanese counterpart Ilyas al-Hirawi late Sunday to help track down the bombers.

Fadlallah Comments

NC0103113594 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuk is a grave development that aims to push Lebanon into very dangerous and negative security and political problems.

He accused Israel's intelligence service of arranging the crime, which was meant to divert attention from the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and involve Lebanon again in the cycle of violence. He added that this requires more vigilance, caution, and unity to confront such grave challenges.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ, Fadlallah said: In the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, we cannot help but see the ugly American face, because the United States has provided Israel with every means of protection against international moves to condemn it. He said the U.S. President's call to the Palestinians and Israelis to move the negotiations to Washington is meant to save the Palestinians' face and to insinuate that the Palestinians have broken down the Zionist barrier placed by Israel between the United States and the Palestinians. This gives the impression that the U.S. President's direct sponsorship of the negotiations might give the Palestinians the unrealistic dream that Washington will pressure the Jews to accept what they have rejected in Taba. But the issue is this: The United States will exert more pressure on the Palestinians by claiming to discuss the need for peace and for opposing the extremist Jews.

Fadlallah said there should be a Palestinian stance that reflects respect for the blood of the Palestinian people and there should also be a firm Arab stance mobilizing all the Arab factors of strength that will confront this massacre and its implications so that the world can know that the Arabs have broken the mold of ineffectiveness.

On what prompted Clinton to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Fadlallah said: It was the feeling that President al-Asad has highlighted Syria's Arab role. This success enabled him to make the Syrian stance rebel against all the internal and foreign factors of weakness. Syria was meant to remain weak in the post-Gulf war changes. But the political surprise was President al-Asad's success in benefiting from all the Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab strengths and exploiting them to highlight the Syrian stance. Syria emphasized its strength in its recent position and this made the Americans feel that the Syrian role was indispensable. This role has remained strong despite all the pressures on it. He noted that there was no change in U.S. policy after the Geneva conference but a change in tactics.

Fadlallah stressed that the resistance will stay if there is a limited Israeli withdrawal from the south and might stay even if there is a withdrawal from all of the south. He said: I believe President al-Asad understands the value of the resistance in restoring Arab dignity and in pressuring Israel and the U.S. stance.

Regarding reports of U.S. fears of possible Israeli operations in the south, Fadlallah said: The method of discussing fears is the strongest form of threat.

He said he does not believe the pope's scheduled visit to Lebanon is of any unusual importance. He said: I do not believe it will have any important political impact on Lebanon's major issue, namely, the Israeli occupation. As we can see, the pope's gift to the Lebanese and Arab peoples before his visit was the quick recognition of Israel. We do not believe this gift encourages the Lebanese to think that this visit will greatly benefit their ambitions.

Islamic-Christian Summit Condemns Bombing

NC2802180494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] While condolences were offered to the church, an Islamic-Christian summit was held in Bkirki today. The summit included Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr; Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of the Republic; and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council. The latter two visited Bkirki to offer condolences to the victims of yesterday's explosion.

The heads of the Muslim community informed Patriarch Sfayr that Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Bahjat Ghayth will not be able to come for health reasons and that they were asked to speak on his behalf and extend his condolences.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din clarified that a small committee consisting of the Islamic-Christian dialogue group has

been commissioned to hold contacts with officials and urge them to take the necessary measures to uncover this crime and its criminals.

After leaving Bkirki, Shams-al-Din said the target of the crime is not the church or the worshipers, but the heart and unity of Lebanon and the government's projects. He affirmed that the criminal hand is not Lebanese. It is certainly a foreign hand. He noted that this crime has not been committed against the Maronite community alone, nor against the Muslims alone, but against all Lebanese.

Shaykh Qabbani said that the fingerprints on the church and Hebron Mosque massacres are the same. He called on the Lebanese to arm themselves with comprehensive national unity. He affirmed that the Lebanese will never be dragged into sectarian sedition and that there is no justification for what happened, no matter what the reasons.

A Hizballah delegation was one of the most prominent visitors at the Patriarchate today and it took part in the service for the victims of the church bomb. A delegation from the National Liberal Party also visited Bkirki today to express their condemnation and pain over the crime.

The Amal Movement condemned the massacre at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and saw it as an extension of the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. The General Labor Federation also condemned the crime and asked the state to track down the criminals and punish them as severely as possible so that they would be an example to others.

Newspapers Cited on Incident

NC2802100194 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Beirut, Feb 27 (AFP)—Lebanon came to a standstill and church bells tolled on Monday to mourn the nine Christians killed when a bomb ripped through a Maronite church.

The head of the Maronite Catholic community, Monsignor Nasrallah Sfayr, was to lead their funeral service at the devastated Our Lady of Deliverance Church in Zuq Mikha'il, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Beirut.

Shops, schools and banks kept their doors shut in the capital and other towns following Sunday's attack, which came three months before a visit by the pope and was the first of its kind on a church in Lebanon.

State-run and private radio and television stations cancelled their regular programmes to broadcast classical music to honour the dead in the attack just two days after the Hebron massacre.

Church bells rang in the southern port city of Tyre, while Palestinians in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon, Lebanon's largest, joined in the day of mourning.

Businesses and schools closed in Israel's "security zone" along the border and the pro-Israeli Voice of the South also played classical music.

"We have to close down out of respect for the dead. It's the least we can do," said the manager of a take-away pizza restaurant in Beirut.

"God help us. What's going to happen to us next?" said an interior designer who still bears the scars of a leg injury suffered during Lebanon's civil war of 1975 to 1990.

A four-year-old girl was among those killed when a five-kilogram (11-pound) bomb attached to two mortar shells and a timing device exploded during a Lent mass in Zuq Mikha'il.

The church was packed with worshippers.

Father Antoine Sfayr who was leading the service was among 55 people wounded in the explosion, which rocked the church as he began reading from the scriptures.

US President Bill Clinton, Jordan's King Husayn and Pope John Paul II joined in condemnation of the attack.

There was no claim of responsibility but an unidentified suspect was arrested, prosecutor Tarabayh Rahmah announced late Sunday after an emergency meeting of security officials which included Syrian officers.

The authorities were aware of "a plan to commit attacks in places of worship in Lebanon," Rahmah said, noting that the suspect was arrested a few days before the blast.

Lebanese newspapers, echoing officials here and in Syria, pointed an accusing finger at Israel and linked the attack to the massacre Friday of 52 Palestinians in a mosque in Hebron on the occupied West Bank.

"Israel observed the Sabbath on Saturday and pursued on Sunday what it had begun on Friday: blood flowed at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and in Our Lady of Deliverance Church," said the pro-Syrian daily AL-SAFIR.

The newspaper charged that the attack was aimed at sowing the discord between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon.

"If no one conquers Israel on its own territory, we must conquer Israeli logic, its agents and its plans on our own territory," the pro-government AL-NAHAR said in an editorial.

Another pro-government daily, AL-LIWA', said the aim of the attacks in Hebron and Zuq Mikha'il were to "torpedo the peace process," which came to a halt on Sunday as Arab delegates cut short negotiations with Israel in Washington.

President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, pledged in a telephone call late

Sunday to his Lebanese counterpart Ilyas al-Hirawi to help track down the bombers.

"Harm done to Lebanon is like harm done to Syria," Asad told al-Hirawi.

Junblatt Urges 'Stern' Measures

NC2802142094 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Statement issued by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt on 28 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Only earnest and stern measures can deter the criminals and eliminate those who play havoc with national security. These measures should include the following:

1. The results of the investigation into the al-Sayfi [Phalangist Party headquarters] bombing must be made public and if evidence and suspects are available, they must be tried by a military tribunal and executed on the spot.

2. The same measures must be applied without hesitation against the recently apprehended pro-Israeli gangs. According to reports, the Army intelligence service recently uncovered and arrested such groups.

3. A request must be submitted to the French Government to hand over the individuals suspected of attempting to assassinate President Ilyas al-Hirawi. According to our information, these individuals possess much information and command dangerous groups hostile to the country's security.

4. The country's various intelligence services must be purged of all individuals guilty of corruption, favoritism, illegal means of amassing wealth, and negligence. Such people must dismissed. All intelligence services must be placed under one unified command so that it will be possible to remedy the current chaos in these services, as illustrated by the fact that escort services for VIP's and their motorcades are more important than the citizens' security.

5. A media law must be passed, unhindered by democratic formalities, with the aim of stopping some television and radio stations from broadcasting incitements. These media must be deterred and closed down.

As for the weepy statements full of political theorizing aimed at linking the church massacre with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, they are neither useful nor convincing.

While it is true that Israel is the first beneficiary of such incidents, it also has well-known agents in the country. This morbid thing must be excised from the national body before the sickness spreads and remedy becomes impossible. Israel, in the final reckoning, does not need to cover up its crime. Just listen to the still-inciteful statements by the Zionist entity's leaders. For example, the so-called man of peace Shim'on Peres refuses to disarm the settlers, wagers on Rabin's downfall, and represents the Zionist army's and Zionist entity's hardline wing. The measures Israel has adopted are limited to the temporary arrest of five settlers.

The Hebron massacre is the start of a major series of crimes aimed at expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank and bringing in more Jews from the former Soviet Union and other countries. Recently they informed us that one million Indian Jews might be brought to Palestine. Hence, the peace negotiations, stillborn to begin with, were buried by the Hebron crime.

We fear that some of the advocates of partition, federalism, so-called civilized pluralism, and extensive decentralization in Lebanon will return to their schemes, bombing churches today and mosques or other places of worship tomorrow with the help of the Israelis.

Commentaries Examine Israel, Hebron Massacre

Israeli Government Responsible

JN2502150894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] What could move the sleeping conscience of the world more than the ugly massacre at the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron today? What could awaken feelings anesthetized by injections of Israeli deception more than images of innocent blood shed in the holy place in Hebron? What sanctities do those—who claim to be the descendants of Abraham—believe in while they shed innocent blood in the Ibrahimi mosque? What act of international terrorism can be compared with what was committed by the sinful Zionist hand against innocent Palestinians in Hebron today?

This is one of a series of similar Zionist terrorist acts that have continued since before 1948. They will not stop as long as Zionists continue their arrogance and sin without meeting deterrence from anyone in the name of humanity, international legitimacy, or international determination to stop their recklessness. They will not stop as long these Zionists continue to see the world's silence about their crimes as collusion giving them a free hand to desecrate anything, with no deterrence of their oppression, terrorism, ambitions, and violations of all noble and honorable human values coming from anyone.

What is the reaction of the NATO members, who were justly shocked by the market crime against scores of innocent people in Sarajevo almost two weeks ago? Then, they issued a warning to the killers and delivered an ultimatum, and the killers bowed to the warning. Doesn't Arab blood incite any reaction from them, or even any feeling of sympathy or mercy? It should not be understood from this that Arabs are begging for sympathy or mercy from anyone, or that they are waiting for another international condemnation or denunciation statement. All the international condemnation statements have not restored any of their rights and have not stopped the violent onslaught of Zionist terrorism and aggression. So far, all the international resolutions have failed to enable Palestinians and Arabs to restore any of their rights, because those who control the international will lack the firm determination to force Israel to pay attention to these resolutions.

Moreover, rather than employing effective international pressure on Israel to heed international legitimacy's resolutions and principles, we have seen acts of collusion represented by silence or carelessness in order to circumvent this legitimacy. The result of this is the daily horrible massacres and crimes Zionists commit against innocent Palestinians, without concern for values, norms, or principles.

The Israeli Government cannot dissociate itself from the crime of massacre committed at the Ibrahimi mosque today by claiming it was the act of an extremist or a deranged Zionist, or that of a Zionist with any other adjective that may be attributed to him in order to cover up the ugliness of the crime.

Direct responsibility for this crime, and for any other crime committed by Zionist settlers or occupation forces, is shouldered by the Tel Aviv rulers who insisted, and are insisting, on keeping the Arab land they usurped, and who encouraged, and are encouraging, the settlers to remain on this land.

The Tel Aviv rulers, who fabricated and ignored the facts of history and geography, rejected the principles of justice and disrespected the resolutions of international legitimacy, and considered occupied Palestinian land a disputed land to which Zionist settlers have more right than its original owners—these rulers are the ones who planted, and are planting, the seeds of terrorism that were terribly manifested today in the Ibrahimi mosque massacre.

We have said and warned more than once that what Israel is doing in the name of the so-called peace that it is hiding behind is nothing more than aggravating elements of tension and explosion, spreading terrorism, and endangering stability and security in the region.

What happened today is only one part of these elements. This will continue as long as Israel remains unrestrained and free from any control that deters its extravagance and stops its crimes and terrorism.

Will the world wake up and pay attention before it is too late, before Israel pushes the entire region, by its anti-peace positions and practices, to the edge of an explosion?

Israeli Government Role Viewed

JN2602171794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The horrendous, treacherous, and savage Israeli crime against Palestinian worshipers at the Ibrahimi Mosque, which left hundreds of dead and wounded, has been greeted with universal condemnation and distress. This despicable crime brings to mind other Zionist massacres, like Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Qibyah, and al-Samu'. Political analysts and observers are unified in their position that the massacre was the natural upshot of unrelenting occupation and settlement activity. They point out that to discuss peace while occupation and settlement activity continue is an exercise in futility and that, if there is to be peace in the region, occupation must end, settlements must be dismantled and settlers repatriated.

The savage Zionist massacre was perpetrated in full view of the Israeli military, who checked the identity of worshipers before their entry into the mosque. During 10

minutes of heavy firing at the backs of kneeling worshipers, none of the Israeli military personnel acted to halt the carnage. With a hail of fire raining at innocent Arabs from different corners, the massacre was a systematic act, the scenario of which must have been mapped out by the higher settlement council. The outrage was a message to Arabs and the world that racist, expansionist Zionism and its characteristically blood-thirsty savagery are still there, and that peace rhetoric is so much lip service.

Zionism and criminality are natural twins. Zionism cannot possibly be a peaceable movement, since it would thus be at cross purposes with it own psyche and objectives. Right from the beginning of the peace process and the Washington talks, the Arab negotiating teams sought an end to Israeli settlement activity and Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, with the Israeli Government consistently offering a negative response to these basic demands. Indeed, Israel has put up hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. loan guarantees to expand existing settlements, build new outposts, and arm settlers. The Israeli Government went even further and introduced joint military-settler patrols. Furthermore, leaders of the settler community have issued threats to carry out massacres against Arabs in the occupied territories. It came to light recently that Zionist settlers have started an armed organization. Rabbis have been urging Israelis to commit murder and drive Arabs from their homes. Only a couple of days ago, the Zionist settlers in the occupied Golan Heights declared their full confidence in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for his support and encouragement. They are known to make it a habit to provoke our people in the Golan and to stage violent demonstrations in order to send the message that Israel is not about to vacate the occupied Syrian territories.

All these acts of aggression culminated in the monstrous crime against the peaceful worshipers. They point to the Rabin government's involvement in this murderous episode. They prove beyond a shadow of doubt that any bargain with Israel that does not provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli military and settlers from the occupied territory is not worth the ink in which it is written.

Peace and occupation and settlements are strange bedfellows. The ABC's of Middle East peace require an Israeli pullout from all occupied Arab territories and their devolution to their rightful owners' control. Yesterday's massacre must be directly or indirectly laid at the door of the Oslo and Cairo agreements and whatever other pact may follow. Talk about Palestinian self-rule while Israeli occupation and armed settlements remain is a waste of time and a stab in the back of the Palestinian people's struggle. It legitimizes a state of affairs rejected by U.N. resolutions and whets the appetite of Zionist settlers to perpetrate further atrocities.

It seems Palestinian negotiators forgot Israel's crime-ridden track record, and were too trustful and unsuspecting, thereby facilitating the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Condemnations and denunciations, no matter how strongly worded, are not good enough. The international community must shoulder its responsibilities and work toward dislodging the Israeli occupation and settlers if it cares enough about a just and universal peace in the Middle East. Throughout two years of negotiations in Washington, the Arabs never detected an Israeli willingness to pull out from the occupied territories, cease settlement activity, or disband settlements. All this, then, when total Israeli withdrawal is a key requirement for any progress toward peace. The community of nations and the sponsors of the peace process will have to immediately intervene to end Israel's equivocation, instead of pressing for an end of the Arab boycott of Israel and a blueprint for regional cooperation incorporating Israel. The UN Security Council, which convened to consider the grave situation, must state the need for a total Israeli withdrawal, settlement disbandment, and restitution of rights and territories.

Israel Linked to Lebanese Church Bombing

JN2702145294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The explosion during the Sunday mass at the Sayyidat al-Najat church in Juniyah today directly poses this question: Who is behind this treacherous act? Whose sinful hands have once again been extended in less than 48 hours to assassinate a new group of worshipers praying to God at the Juniyah church, exactly as their brothers were doing two days ago at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron? Who are those involved in killing the worshipers inside the houses of worship? Who are those who skillfully dissociate themselves from responsibility and hold others responsible?

Can anyone doubt the fact that there is a clear link between the Hebron massacre, perpetrated at the Ibrahimi Mosque during the dawn prayers, and the Sunday mass massacre at the Sayyidat al-Najat church in Juniyah? What objectives does this clear link between the two crimes conceal? The answers do not need much thought: It is the hands of rancor, extremism, and terrorism. These are the same hands that were created, planted, and sponsored by Israel in the region, giving rise to vehement rancor at the hands of ruthless and fanatic settlers. Thus, these settlers shed blood in a sacred place in Hebron.

These hands today dealt a treacherous new and mean blow to the Juniyah church through cheap agents who sold themselves, their conscience and homeland, and the blood of their brothers to the enemy at a cheap price.

No doubt, Israel is the party behind today's explosion in Juniyah. It seeks to achieve objectives that are known to everyone. Foremost among these objectives is to conceal the Hebron massacre and create an atmosphere of sedition and disturbance in Lebanon. Israel is the only party interested in fomenting such seditions, so they will spread not only in Lebanon but in the entire region, as well. Only in such an atmosphere can Israel conceal its crimes and its terrorism and exploit this situation in order to achieve its schemes designed to control Arab land and resources and this nation's destiny.

However, today's explosion cannot conceal those who are behind such crimes. In fact, today's crime urges the international community and the world to assume a greater responsibility for confronting the chain of Israeli crimes and massacres and taking deterrent measures to curb Zionist terrorism. We reiterate that this terrorism threatens the situation in the whole region with explosion.

Will the world contemplate this issue, make up its mind, and end Zionist terrorism and aggression before it is too late?

Peace Talks 'Waste of Time'

JN2802145694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel now stands accused before the entire world, ashamed and haunted by the curses of the innocent ones who were killed in the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque, the occupied Arab territories, and Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Juniyah as a result of the Zionist beast's rampage and indiscriminate shooting. Over 60 people were killed in the Ibrahimi Mosque in the horrible massacre that was carried out by settlers and covered by the Israeli Army. Hundreds were left wounded. In the occupied territories, 19 people were killed as of yesterday at the hands of the Israeli Army. Many were also wounded.

As for the Juniyah church massacre, Israel deliberately carried out this attack to distract attention away from the horrible Friday massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque.

In the face of the world's strong condemnation and rising calls for the protection of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories, Israel, as usual, has created a fog of falsehood. Its officials expressed regret and some of them alleged sorrow. Shim'on Peres went as far as saying that the settlers are a catastrophe for Israel, knowing that Shamir's former government and Rabin's current government gave priority to settlement activities.

Rabin himself saw to it that the settlers were armed and given all means of support and, only recently, his agriculture minister expanded a settlement in the Golan Heights. Both Shamir and Rabin blocked the peace talks in Washington and two years later, Israel has not yet pledged to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Rabin's main objective in singing the Oslo Agreement, and then holding negotiations to interpret it, was to maintain the settlements in the Gaza Strip and Jericho as arsenals, a sword hanging over the heads of the Palestinians.

Consequently, the alleged sorrow expressed by Israeli officials is a cheap attempt at deception. The return of stability, calm, and tranquility to the Middle East hinges on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the dismantling all forms of occupation, the end of all settlement activities, and the building of a just and comprehensive peace that protects everyone's rights. Israel has, thus far, rejected withdrawal, refused to halt settlement activities, and rejected just and comprehensive peace.

Even after the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which shocked and disgusted the world, Israeli terrorism continued to claim more innocent lives. The Palestinian people were punished and subjected to military siege and curfews, and the Lebanese people, who denounced the massacre, were punished by an Israeli bomb in Juniyah church. Meanwhile, the Zionist settlers, who committed the slaughter in cold blood, are moving around freely and celebrating the crime. The measures, which Rabin claims to have taken against the fanatical settlers, are aimed at throwing dust in the eyes of the world.

For over 40 years, Israel has been uprooting the Palestinian people from their land and property through force, terrorism, and massacres. The Friday massacre is not unusual in this Israeli trend. It is a continuation of the series of crimes, such as those in Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, Kafr Qasim, and al-Samu', and is aimed at terrorizing the Palestinian and forcing them to leave their land.

Thus, talking about peace in light of the serious Zionist escalation and Israel's continued refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories or halt settlement activities is a waste of time. It is, indeed, absurd. For over two years, the Arab delegations have failed to prompt Israel to even pledge to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Friday's massacre and the ensuing events threaten that the situation in the region will deteriorate unless the world community takes resolute and effective moves to protect the Palestinian people, first and foremost. They must also stress that the Middle East peace hinges on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories and its removal of the settlers, and that these issues cannot be delayed or postponed. The Western powers, who have provided all kinds of military and economic aid to Israel, are responsible for checking the rampage of the Israeli beast. There is no purpose or meaning in holding any peace talks that are not based on a clear Israeli commitment to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Newspapers Examine Hebron Massacre

Condemn Massacre

JN2602112494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN writes about the hideous massacre perpetrated by the Zionist settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied Palestinian city of Hebron yesterday.

The paper says: This massacre not only reminds us of the terrorist massacres and mass killings in Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, Kafr Qasim, Bahr al-Baqar, Da'il, and al-Samu', it also proves the impossibility of coexistence between Arabs and Israelis as a result of the fascist Zionist rancor against the Arabs.

TISHRIN says: This massacre was premeditated, planned, and carefully studied. This is confirmed by the number of victims who were killed or wounded. This is also revealed by the killing of Palestinians which continued after the massacre at the hands of the occupation troops in Hebron, Bethlehem, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and Nabulus, and which also extended to Nazareth and the entire 1948 territories to 'Ayn Mahil, Kafr Kanna, and Umm al-Fahm until they reached the Golan.

TISHRIN adds: Our people's wrath indicates that occupation will inevitably vanish, that resistance must be escalated against all the manifestations and pillars of the occupation, and that capitulation and relinquishment of rights is calamitous, especially since the Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre was only one of the manifestations and results of the Oslo agreement which gave Israel all that it wants and granted it all that would enable it to continue its occupation and impose its control on our people's destiny and their national and pan-Arab will. What kind of peace is that which was produced by the Oslo agreement? It is the peace of settlers who kill Arabs, violate honor, defile sanctities, control the land, and imposes capitulatory conditions.

TISHRIN stresses: Israel is still completely hostile to peace. It still adheres to all its crimes. It perpetrates massacres and falsely claims that they are perpetrated by individuals. It shamelessly conceal the facts of its hideous terroristic practices.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Although it is difficult to forget the results of the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque without forcing Israel to pay the price for what it has done to our people, it has also unequivocally proved that occupation and peace cannot go together, and that the road to peace cannot pass through partial agreements and separate deals, but through the full termination of occupation and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

In two articles, the newspaper also writes about the bloodbath at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied city of Hebron at dawn yesterday. Under the headline "Crime and Responsibility," AL-THAWRAH says: Yitzhaq Rabin's government has hastened to acquit itself of responsibility for the massacre and to hold one person res nsible. It came out with several stories harmoniz with its known policy of blaming provocative mass carnages on deranged Israelis, as it claims.

AL-THAWRAH stresses: The Rabin government's disinformation campaign concerning this heinous massacre and its attempt to acquit itself of responsibility for it cannot be accepted by anyone, especially since the occupation forces guard all entrances to the Ibrahimi Mosque, and consequently, no armed man can enter without the approval of those Israeli forces.

AL-THAWRAH says: Moreover, we cannot separate the occupation soldiers' killing and wounding of a large number of Palestinians who were shocked by the crime and took to the streets in the cities and villages of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from the timing of the massacre.

It says: Killing Palestinians in the occupied territories and dealing with them as if they were strangers, and arming Jewish settlers and supporting their crimes against Arab citizens have become an official policy adopted by the Rabin government. This policy has been escalating since the Oslo agreement. This shows the Rabin government's hostility to peace and stability, and its adherence to Israel's 1948 policy which was based on a firm ideology concerning the perpetration of massacres and daily killing of Palestinians. This also proves that this government has no intention to withdraw from the occupied territories or even to stop the establishment of Jewish settlements on them.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH calls on the U.S. Administration, the cosponsor of the peace process, to adopt fair stands toward what is taking place in the occupied territories in harmony with its principles of preventing aggression and terrorism. Moreover, all aid to Israel should stop, and the principles of the international legitimacy should be implemented to achieve peace and stability in the region.

In another article on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH calls on the international community to immediately and bravely assume its responsibilities and to take the necessary measures to secure protection for the Palestinians under the Zionist occupation by terminating this occupation, especially after this crime has proved to the world the extreme danger of the continuation of occupation of Arab territories and of settling on these territories. This danger can only by eliminated by enabling the Palestinian people to determine their future in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions, particularly those resolutions on which the peace process is based.

Urge Firm UN Stand

JN2702143894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today's press commentaries focus on the barbaric massacre perpetrated by Zionist settlers against our kinsfolk at the holy Ibrahimi Mosuqe of Hebron.

Under the headline "The Fingerprints of Crime and Blood," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: In mid-Ramadan and while worshipers were prostrating during the dawn prayers at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, the Israelis' treacherous bullets killed and wounded hundreds of worshipers in a grisly massacre that has dumbfounded people everywhere.

AL-BA'TH adds: The massacre is a new chapter in the Zionists' terrorist record, which is replete with all kinds of killings, slayings, and crimes perpetrated over the past 50 years.

The paper holds Israeli rulers responsible for the massacre, because it is they who recruited and armed the settlers. Moreover, it is they who disarmed the Palestinian Arabs and prevented them from carrying even kitchen knives so they can be easy prey for these hateful vagabonds.

The paper goes on to say: Israeli hands were stained with the blood of victims in the massacres committed in Qibyah, Dayr Yasin, Bahr al-Baqar, the al-Aqsa Mosque, Sabra, and Shatila, and many other places. Now, these criminal hands have been stained with worshipers' blood at the Ibrahimi Mosque.

The paper wonders: Can there be more heinous and dastardly criminal murders than those being supported by Israeli rulers, who profess to be advocates of peace and civilized conduct, while attacking Arabs with weapons and instigating strangers whom they brought from the farthest points in the globe? Israeli rulers have turned the settlements into safe havens for murderers and criminals, who are killing defenseless and innocent people in cold blood.

AL-BA'TH says: Since the convening of the Madrid conference, and throughout all phases of the peace talks, Israeli rulers, and the Rabin government in particular, have been adamant in their refusal to discuss the issue of settlements, arguing that this issue must be discussed only during the final status negotiations.

The paper wonders: Does this not provide glaring evidence that the Israeli rulers are harboring criminal intentions to evict the residents of the territories through massacres, displacement, eviction, and killings, so there will be nothing to negotiate on during the later stage of the negotiations?

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH wonders: What kind of peace can be achieved when criminal slayings continue to be carried out? What kind of coexistence can there be with these killers? For the fingerprints of crime, blood, and shame are engraved on their foreheads. Besides, the world community is convinced, now more than ever before, that there can be no stability, security, or peace in the region unless the Israeli occupation is dismantled, and unless the Palestinian Arab people regain their right to self- determination.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The heinous massacre perpetrated by Israeli settlers inside the holy Ibrahimi Mosque confirms for the one thousandth time that Israel is a racist hostile entity that flouts all humanitarian and ethical values. The reality is that this massacre is the epitome of the law of the jungle upheld by the Tel Aviv rulers, under the very nose of the world community. They feel immune from any punishment.

The paper adds: The Yitzhaq Rabin government is responsible for this massacre. Blame cannot be placed on an insane settler, nor can it be put on an unpremeditated individual act. For had it not encouraged and endorsed such a criminal act, the Rabin government would not have ordered its troops to kill Arabs who took to the streets throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the immediate aftermath of the massacre to express their sadness and anger.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the entire world community has condemned this heinous crime. Statements and communiques condemning this heinous crime and urging measures to prevent a recurrence of what has happened have been issued by various world capitals.

The paper wonders: Are statements enough to deter Israel and curb its belligerence, and to return it to its senses? Is the use of condemnations and denunciations the proper means of dealing with an entity that flaunts its disobedience of international legitimacy?

AL-THAWRAH urges the world community and the UN Security Council to go beyond the issuance of condemnatory and denunciatory statements to institute new firm formulas and measures to make Israel understand that it cannot remain immune from deterrent punitive measures indefinitely.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The issue is now to be decided by the Security Council. It is hoped that the Security Council will pass a clear and unequivocal resolution providing for the protection of the Palestinians and disarming the settlers, and expressing a determination to see the relevant previous Security Council resolutions implemented. Such a resolution must also express strong support for the peace process, and underscore the removal of Israeli obstacles standing in the way of peace efforts. This is because without the achievement of just and comprehensive peace that returns rights to their lawful owners, the region will remain fertile ground for violence, chaos, and terrorism.

The newspaper TISHRIN also comments on the same issue, but from a different angle.

The paper says: It is no coincidence that the occupied Syrian Golan settlers council has expressed full support for Rabin's policy, which is extending support and backing to the settlement drive in the occupied Syrian territories. This stand by the settlers council was also prompted by Rabin's frustration with the Washington talks, and also by the efforts he has made to block a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper adds: It is Rabin who armed the settlers, and authorized the deployment of joint army-settler patrols. It is Rabin who blinded himself to the launching of an army of settlers, and to their recent continuous threats to perpetrate massacres if the Palestinians fail to quickly vacate their lands and abandon their property.

The paper goes on to say: Rabin has consecrated settlement activities as a constant pillar of his government's policy. The Washington peace talks ran into the intransigence of the Israeli negotiating teams. Meanwhile, Rabin was expanding settlements in the West Bank and the Golan and building new settlements.

TISHRIN maintains that peace is the antithesis of settlement activities, and that the achievement of peace is contingent upon the dismantlement of the settlements and the evacuation of settlers.

TISHRIN touches on the Washington peace talks, saying that they are moving in a vicious circle, because the Israeli Government is opposed to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Besides, the paper says, the efforts made by many international parties have failed to persuade Israeli rulers that peace is far more important than settlement activities and territorial expansion. Had Rabin responded favorably to the Arab demand for withdrawal from the occupied territories, peace would have been close at hand, and the Washington talks would have made great progress along the path of achieving just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

However, Rabin, the paper adds, has chosen to lend deaf ears to the calls for true and durable peace, and dragged the Palestinian negotiators to a flawed and lame agreement that consecrates occupation and settlement activities. The end result has been the horrifying Friday massacre, which killed more than 60 innocent Palestinians, and wounded hundreds of others.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: By its perpetration of subsequent crimes and its rejection of the requirements of just, durable, and permanent peace, Zionism is addressing a message to the world community, through this massacre, telling it that it has not changed, even by a hairbreadth, its racist and aggressive colors, and that it will proceed with its criminal schemes, even if thousands of innocent victims are to fall.

Israel Linked to Church Massacre

JN2802083994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Feb 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline of "Israel Shoulders the Responsibility," TISHRIN says: Within less than two days and before the Palestinian blood dries in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and on the confrontation fields in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel committed a new massacre in Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Micha'il in Juniyah, to overshadow the crime of slaughtering Palestinian worshipers in Hebron.

TISHRIN says it is not strange that Israel tries to hide the traces of the dawn crime with another crime also targeting worshipers in a church in Juniyah. This was exposed by the similar plans of implementation, which threaten the Arabs in their homeland, shrines, and even at their prayers.

If the Zionist terrorists managed to enter the Ibrahimi Mosque and open fire at Palestinian worshipers, their proxy instruments played the same role in Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Juniyah when they planted explosive devices in disgusting timing, because at that time the church is packed with worshipers on the occasion of Lent.

TISHRIN stresses that the Zionists are masters in desecrating shrines and committing blatant aggressions against these shrines. In this, they do not differentiate between a church and a mosque. Their objective is to kill more Arabs.

Following the Hebron massacre, it seems that the Israelis were afraid of the overwhelming popular anger in the occupied Arab territories, and were affected by the broad Arab and international condemnation, so they tried through their new heinous crime in Sayyidat al-Najat Church to overshadow the denunciation and anger at Israel and Rabin's government caused by the Hebron crime.

TISHRIN adds: Israel, which thought that by committing the massacre of Sayyidat al-Najat Church it could alleviate the effects of the Hebron massacre, is once again deluded.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that Lebanese blood is not cheap. It is Arab blood the same as Palestinian and Syrian blood. Israel should not be allowed to continue with its crimes and massacres before the eyes of the entire world. It should not be allowed to undermine the will of the international community and the resolutions of international legitimacy, adhere to its occupation of the Arab territories, and reject the just and comprehensive peace. It is impossible to remain silent toward Israel's terrorist practices. Israel should be deterred and stopped, and this is an international responsibility as much as it is an Arab responsibility.

On Talks' Suspension, Peace Efforts

JN0103081394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary headlined "Denunciation Alone Insufficient," AL-BA'TH says: It is indeed strange that Israel should be talking about the enemies of peace, when, in reality, it is its enemy number one, if not the only one.

In a bid to explain away the savagery perpetrated at the Ibrahimi Mosque, Rabin contends that it is the enemies of peace who stand to benefit from the massacre. He chooses to forget that those with Arab blood on their hands are the ones who have been hampering every effort to advance the peace process since the Madrid conference.

Rabin, who is shedding tears over peace, himself leads the opposition to disarming the settlers. This means that he condones their atrocities and even wants them to continue. The massacre that has sent shockwaves throughout the world has prompted the Arabs to suspend their participation in the bilateral talks. Not that they are thus terminating the peace efforts; they are, in effect, telling the sponsors of the peace process to wake up to their responsibilities. The first of these is to curb Zionist terror in the occupied Arab territories and south Lebanon, and then to persuade the Rabin government to relinquish its intransigent posture and embark on serious negotiations based on a real and clear commitment to vacating the entire occupied Arab territories in compliance with UN resolutions.

Islamic Jihad Official Addresses Rally on Hebron

JN2802192594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Damascus—The al-Yarmuk Camp witnessed a mammoth popular demonstration today in which thousands of Palestinians protested the hideous crime perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque Friday morning in which dozens of people were martyred and hundreds more were wounded.

The march, which was staged along the camp's main roads, was led by 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary general of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation War-al-Sa'iqah Forces; members of the Regional Command of the Palestinian Organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the secretary of Fatah-the Uprising; and the secretary generals of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, the Islamic Jihad Movement, the Palestine Liberation Movement, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. The march was also led by the secretaries and members of the branches of al-Yarmuk, Palestine, and the Palestinian Liberation Front of the Ba'th Party; the representative of the Hamas Movement; the representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and representatives of the National Progressives Front parties in Syria. Palestinian flags, slogans condemning the ugly crime perpetrated by the Zionist settlers in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, and black banners were raised in the march. The marchers set Israeli flags on fire, cheered on the popular intifadah in the occupied territories, and called for revenge for the blood of the righteous martyrs.

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, addressed the gathering in the main square of the al-Yarmuk Camp on behalf of the national Palestinian alliance forces in Syria. He reviewed the massacres perpetrated by Israel against our Palestinian people in Dayr Yasin, Qibya, Kafr Qasim, Nahhalin, 'Ayun Kara, al-Aqsa, and the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. He said: We will neither surrender nor bargain. The banners of our struggle will remain high, and the sacred blood that was shed on the holy day in the holy place from the bodies of hundreds of the sons of brave Hebron and throughout the homeland will water the trees of the intifadah, freedom, and victory.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: This crime is a continuation of the liquidation plot embodied in the Gaza-Jericho accord and the subsequent accords that are aimed to disarm our people so that they will remain defenseless in front of the Israeli Army and settlers.

Concluding his speech, Dr. al-Shaqaqi stressed the need for achieving effective national unity to confront Israeli challenges.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Zia Condemns Hebron Massacre

BK2702093094 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned Friday's massacre of 52 Palestinians [words indistinct] in a mosque in Hebron in the occupied West Bank. In a statement yesterday, the prime minister expressed her apprehension that the (?diabolic) carnage by the Jewish settlers could make the Middle East peace process more complex. She said the world community is now required to be more active and alert so that the Middle East peace process is not jeopardized. The prime minister reiterated solidarity of the people of Bangladesh for the Palestinians.

Leader of the opposition and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, in a statement expressed deep shock at the killing.

India

New Delhi 'Strongly' Condemns Hebron Massacre

BK2602161894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] India has strongly condemned yesterday's massacre of nearly 50 Palestinian worshipers in the West Bank town of Hebron by an Israeli gunman. New Delhi also conveyed its condolences to the members of the bereaved families. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said today that India calls upon Israel to take immediate and effective steps to ensure that such incidents are not repeated. Israel has also been urged to bring the culprits to book and protect the lives and properties of innocent people in the occupied territory. New Delhi expressed the hope that all concerned will adopt a path of restraint in bringing down tension and will not vitiate the climate of peace and tranquillity to make the West Asia peace process a success.

Iran

Officials, Commentaries React to Hebron Massacre

Yazdi Condemns 'Savage Attack'

LD2802163694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpt] At today's session of the judicial authorities, which was chaired by Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, Mr. Yazdi condemned the Zionists' savage attack at the Friday prayers services in al-Khalil. He said: The negligence of the advocates of human rights and international organizations, including the United Nations, in such cases, and the lack of prompt practical deterrent measures cause public opinion to doubt the sincerity of those organizations.

He added: This situation is such that there is a need to form a powerful international criminal court, higher than The Hague Court of Justice—to realize rights, carry out justice, and punish offenders. [passage omitted]

NATO Strike To 'Distract' Muslims

NC0103074794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina has entered a new phase with NATO's air strike on and downing of four Serb fighters. With this air strike, NATO resorted to its first true military operation since forming after World War II. The second Security Council resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina has been implemented. During the past two years, the UN Security Council has issued 19 resolutions on Bosnia and until yesterday's air strike, only the resolution on the arms embargo, which was limited to the Muslims, was being implemented.

The fist question that comes to mind is: Why were most of the Security Council resolutions on Bosnia not implemented and why was the resolution banning flights by hostile planes over Bosnia implemented only yesterday, over a year after it was approved?

Political analysts believe that the implementation or the suspension of the Security Council resolutions on Bosnia stemmed primarily from the political recklessness of international powers and their agreements backstage. Basically, this issue can be studied within the context of the cooperation and rivalry between the Western countries and Russia.

The approval of the Security Council resolutions on the Bosnian crisis and the implementation or violation of these resolutions form the most important pillar in the West's cooperation with Russia. The flood of Russian arms to Serbia and the dispatch of similar Western arms to Croatia—despite the international sanctions—are examples of how the resolution on the arms embargo was violated by the belligerent sides in the Bosnian crisis, with mutual connivance by the West and Russia.

The arms embargo on the Muslims, which was pursued under the strong control of the West and Russia, is another example of this cooperation, which shows how the world powers have a uniform political inclination in their hostility toward the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia. This cooperation between the West and Russia recently adopted the character of a political transaction. Russia's political support for the Serbs after the NATO ultimatum and its preventing the NATO air strike against the Serbs' heavy gun bases were among the concessions

that the West granted to Moscow so that Russia's President Yeltsin could use these for domestic consumption against his rivals.

Yesterday's support by Russia for the NATO air strike on the Serb fighters is a concession that Russia is giving to the West. Although Russia supports the Serbs, it cannot agree with their impudence in violating the resolution on the no-fly zone and in their air strike on two Muslim-inhabited cities, especially when Moscow voted for this resolution.

Next to the cooperation between the West and Russia in the former Yugoslavia, there is also rivalry between the two, which has recently become more visible. Russia's powerful entry onto the scene toward the end of the period specified in NATO's ultimatum two weeks ago, gathering the hostile side's heavy guns from around Sarajevo, and Moscow's overt support for the Bosnian Serbs form one of the clearest examples of the rivalry between Russia and the West in the Balkans. It recalls the Cold War era's bloc system.

The U.S. proposal to form a type of confederation with the Republic of Croatia on the one side and the Bosnian Muslims and Croats on the other and the two sides' [as heard] call on Washington to examine the situation are considered to form a reciprocal step by the West, which is trying to place the Bosnian Muslims within an irreversible new framework and under the umbrella of Western support and political influence.

Political analysts believe that while cooperation and rivalry rule relations between the West and Russia in the Bosnian crisis, the recent NATO air strike on the Serb fighters took place with another objective in mind that is not opposed by Russia either. Overshadowing the savage act by the Zionist forces in the massacre at the Abrahamite shrine may be the main objective behind NATO's delayed attack on the Serb planes. The Zionist regime's thoughtless act has sparked off dangerous repercussions for the West's interests in the Islamic world and the West is trying to resort to another commotion in a bid to distract the world of Islam from Tel Aviv's horrific crime.

Egypt's Stance 'Contradictory'

NC0103081394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Reaction by Muslim circles to the recent crime by the Zionist regime of violating the sanctity of the Abrahamite shrine and massacring the Palestinian worshippers revealed the nature and character of many Arab regimes and weakened their political bases. The student and popular demonstrations throughout Egypt, which started a few days ago, speak of the deep Islamic bond that the Egyptian people have with their Palestinian brothers and shows the different stances by the Egyptian people and by the Egyptian Government in their approach to the Zionist regime.

The Egyptian Government, which knows this reality more than anyone else, adopted a progressive position immediately after Tel Aviv's recent crime to politically exploit the issue and to avoid the negative repercussions that the Zionist regime's acts could have at home. Condemning the massacre of the worshippers at the Abrahamite shrine, it called on international organizations to seriously examine the issue and take punitive measures against the Zionist regime.

But this stance, which did not conform with the nature and principles of the foreign policy of Husni Mubarak's regime, adopted a contradictory nature with the intensification of the Egyptian people's protests against the recent crime by the Zionist regime. The Egyptian police's clashes with demonstrators protesting against the Zionist regime and the killing of 12 demonstrators [as heard] showed the contradictory behavior of the Cairo regime and revealed its accord with the Zionist regime.

Political observers believe that the Egyptian Government cannot agree with the Egyptian people's feelings of solidarity with the Palestinian dream and walk hand-in-hand with the Zionist enemy at the same time. These political observers believe that with their people's reaction to the Zionist regime's crime, the Arab governments that have been drawn into a compromise with the Zionist regime based on an incorrect assessment have realized for the umpteenth time that the path of compromise with the Zionist regime that they have chosen to tread does not conform with the people's views and that these regimes are at a crossroads, where they must choose between their people and relations with the Zionist regime.

What is certain is that accord among Arab governments and their people will not only help strengthen these regimes, but will also grant them immense popular support, which can play an important role when it comes to showing the direction in which political developments and processes should move.

Pakistan

Bhutto Expresses 'Anguish' Over Hebron Massacre

BK2602103894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the unprovoked and brutal assault on the congregation of Muslims inside the Ibrahim Mosque at al-Khalil city, in which more than 50 Muslims were martyred and several others injured. While condemning the dastardly and despicable act on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, the prime minister in a statement issued in Islamabad last night, said the incident reflects religious intolerance which nowadays has been directed toward the Muslims of Palestine, Bosnia, and Kashmir. While condemning this tendency toward religious intolerance, she said Pakistan considers it as nothing but unreasonable steps taken at individual and

collective levels. Pakistan has taken note of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's appeal to convene an emergency session of the UN Security Council and as a member of this body, Pakistan will give full attention to this serious matter. The prime minister urged the members of the UN Security Council to make use of the tenets enshrined in the UN Charter and to implement the UN Security Council Resolution Number 242 and 338, and other resolutions on Jerusalem.

Senate 'Strongly' Condemns Hebron Massacre

BK2702113394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] In Islamabad today, the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning the incident of firing at Ibrahim Mosque in al-Khalil City. Scores of people were martyred or injured in the firing by a Zionist with the help of Israeli authorities. In the resolution presented by Justice Minister Iqbal Haider and Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, the house described the incident as the century's worst act of terrorism. The house also decided to dispatch copies of the resolution to various international fora.

In her brief speech on the occasion, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, expressed deep sympathy with the bereaved families. Expressing complete solidarity of the people of Pakistan with the Palestinian people, she said Pakistan will continue to extend full support to the cause of the Palestinians forever.